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COMMENT OF THE DAY

History-Making

FINAL ratification of the Paris agreements this week culminates a long series of attempts to create a rational structure for post-war Europe. Exactly ten years after the collapse of Nazi Germany a new Germany is admitted to sovereign equality with the other countries of Western Europe. Is this tragic irony or the fulfilment of war aims? It is not unfair to suggest that it is a practical fulfilment of aims which were often hidden by passions or indifference, but nonetheless were aims towards which Britain and other Western allied powers have consistently worked.

The aim of producing a new, prosperous and peaceful Europe was certainly adopted by most British people as part of their war efforts. It was easy to believe, in the fever of war, this could be done by eliminating Germany from all calculations. Perhaps there was even a practical possibility that if the victors had remained united, Germany could have been made a cypher in the middle of a United Europe.

But it was a possibility destroyed in the months between the Yalta Conference and the establishment of Communist dictatorships in Eastern Europe which drove the Western European countries to seek safety in a closer association between themselves and with the great trans-Atlantic powers.

THE true history of post-war Europe, the connecting link which runs through the past decade, is the saga of how the nations in the West, divided by centuries of history, have tried to find a new unity. And in all of this crucial episode was the reluctant decision of France, in the words of Sir Winston Churchill, to "take Germany by the hand and lead her back into the family of nations."

With the collapse of the projected European Defence Community, the prospects of a really unified Western Europe faded. The situation, in fact, was saved almost entirely as a result of Britain's initiative in securing signatures to the London agreements which opened the way for the creation of the Western European Union. And the most significant feature of the agreement was that it increased Germany's freedom of action and allowed her to create a national army.

SUCH a "new look" could only be made acceptable to France by some important countervailing advantage, and this was provided by Britain in a gesture which reversed two centuries of tradition: the pledge was given that Britain would keep her troops on the continent as long as a majority of Western European Union members desired this. The practical effect of this offer is that Britain puts part of her main land forces and a large section of her air force under the ultimate supranational control, i.e., an international group accepting majority verdicts.

Now that the process of ratifying the Paris agreements is complete, a new task lies ahead of Britain—to take the leadership in the Western European Union. The permanent headquarters of the WEU will be in London and a great deal will depend on how it sets about the work of building a community with NATO. The difficulties it will have to face—administration of the Saar, arms inspection and limitation—are considerable, but if they are successfully overcome, the result could be the basis for a new and modern Europe fit to face the problems of the H-bomb age.

BAO DAI'S MESSAGE TO DIEM

Repudiates Proposed National Congress

FIGHTING IN SAIGON STILL GOING ON

Cannes, May 3.

Ex-Emperor Bao Dai, in a telegram to Premier Ngo Dinh Diem, today declared he "impugned" the National Congress, the "illegality of which," he said, "does not even require demonstration."

Ngo Dinh Diem had announced earlier today he would call a National Congress to meet in Saigon next Thursday with participation of political parties, local and provincial figures and the army leaders.

It would aim, he said, at allowing the nation to participate more fully in the country's affairs.

Bao Dai's telegram stated: "Following your telegram of today I wish to inform you that I impugn this Congress, the illegality of which does not require demonstration. Under present circumstances and while civil war is in full swing a Congress meeting in Saigon must be dominated by a revolutionary faction and could not express the wishes of the people.

"Such a Congress could not claim to decide upon the destiny of a nation and yet resolutions voted at it would entail very serious consequences.

"I consider that your honour and dignity would not permit you to endorse such an imposture which would plunge our people in further misery and would turn the Vietnam into a hotbed of unrest in Southeast Asia and would therefore inevitably lead to the country's downfall."—France-Presse.

ENVOY RECEIVED

Cannes, May 3.

The Vietnam Head of State, Bao Dai, received here tonight Ton That Hoi, special envoy of the South Vietnam Premier, Mr Ngo Dinh Diem.

The envoy, who arrived here yesterday from battle-torn Saigon with instructions from Mr Diem to inform the ex-emperor of the situation in the Vietnam capital, had waited all day for the audience.

This afternoon Ton That Hoi had over an hour's interview with Bao Dai's principal private secretary, Nguyen Do. The Head of State received the Premier's envoy after the secretary had reported on this interview.

Meanwhile a spokesman of the Cabinet of the Vietnam Head of State, said tonight he was not informed of any intention of the ex-emperor to return to Saigon in the immediate future, particularly Saturday.

He was commenting on Saigon reports that Bao Dai would return to the Vietnam capital on Saturday.—Reuter.

STEADY ADVANCE

Saigon, May 3.

Fighting in a tropical thunderstorm government forces were today advancing relentlessly in the week-old battle for Saigon while the Binh Xuyen private army made an orderly retreat into the delta waterways and rice paddies.

Slogans denouncing Bao Dai, the Head of State, were gradually washed out of the streamers which span the capital's main streets.

Machinegun fire was heard at dusk from the marshlands outside of the city after Premier Ngo Dinh Diem's main attack today had been launched to midday in the dock area two miles to the south.

A government spokesman claimed that four Binh Xuyen battalions had deserted their commander, General Le Van Vien, and reached government lines leaving him with only 1,000 trained men.

But battlefront reports said if there were only 1,000 they were fighting remarkably well.

BAO DAI DENOUNCED

The revolutionary committee held a meeting—reduced by the downpour of rain—to denounce Bao Dai. Youths and girls paraded with banners while helmeted men of the committee special guard lined nearby streets with revolvers at their hips.

Highly placed Western observers now believe that Mr Diem neither controls the revolutionary junta nor is controlled.

They think Mr Diem and the junta are eyeing each other warily each hoping to use the other for their own ends.

According to these observers there is serious danger that the junta might win control of Mr Diem and then the Communists win control of the junta.

In that case the Vietnamese Communist government in Hanoi could be welcomed into South Vietnam with open arms without the election demanded by the Geneva armistice agreement.

Two top Communists arrived in Saigon to keep an eye on the troubled political situation according to influential Vietnamese political sources.

They are Dr Pham Ngoc Thach, political commissar for Cochin China (South Vietnam) until the Indo-China war ended last year, and Ferdinand Thuan, his close associate.

JUNTA'S BADGE

The Junta, which has a five-pointed red star as its badge, has two former Communist political commissars among its members, the sources said: Its Vice-President, Ho Han Son, who was political commissar of a Vietminh (Communist) regiment until 1952, and its Secretary-General, Nhi Lang Nhi Lang, who did the same job at battalion level.

The chief representatives of Britain and the United States in Southeast Asia, Mr Malcom MacDonald, and General Lawton Collins, conferred on the crisis today.

After his meeting with General Collins Mr MacDonald had his second meeting with the French Commissioner, General Paul Ely, since he arrived yesterday. General Collins has also discussed the situation with General Ely. Mr MacDonald leaves for Phnompenh, Cambodia, tomorrow afternoon and will also visit Laos state before returning here for a further short stay in about a week's time.

Mr MacDonald is believed here to be playing the role of mediator between the French and Americans, whose Indo-China policies have clashed.

WHERE THEY DIFFER

Many British people here feel that there is no fundamental difference in the aims of the Americans and French who both want to preserve a Vietnam independent of Communism, but the differences have arisen over method.

Some Americans here have tended to dismiss all the French as "colonialists" whose whole policy should be avoided. Some French who know the country well are openly amused when the Americans make mistakes that could have been avoided if French advice had been asked. The resulting bad feeling has harmed both French and American interests here.—Reuter.

Three Planes Search For Missing Couple

Miami, Florida, May 3.

Three light planes swooped over a wooded area north of here today, searching for traces of a New Jersey couple believed slain after the husband was subpoenaed to testify against the notorious Albert Anastasia.

Deputies also attempted to find a stolen or rented car the slayer may have used to carry the bodies of Mr and Mrs Charles Ferri from their blood-spattered residence.

Numerous fingerprints and pools of human blood found in the Ferri home provided the only clues to the strange disappearance. Deputy John Tyler said, "It looks worse every minute."

But he said there was no evidence of a direct connection between the disappearance and a subpoena Ferri had to appear in Newark, New Jersey, at the second income tax evasion trial of Anastasia, former "Lord High Executioner of Murder, Inc."—United Press.

Radford Cagey On Formosa Visit

Washington, May 3.

Admiral Arthur Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said today the US military training mission on Formosa "probably will be enlarged".

But he would not confirm or deny reports that American troops, perhaps a full division, may be based on the Chinese Nationalist island.

"We will do whatever we have to do in the future," he said.

Admiral Radford and the assistant Secretary of State, Walter Robertson, talked briefly to newsmen after making an hour-long report to President Eisenhower on their recent trip to Formosa for conferences with Nationalist leaders.

Mr Robertson said the question of war or peace in the Formosa area "depends on the Chinese Communists". If war came, he said, "it certainly will not be on our initiative."

Admiral Radford declined to give any details of the "probable" enlargement of the US military mission which is training Nationalist troops on Formosa.

RED BUILD-UP

Asked if the build-up of Chinese Communist forces near Formosa increased the danger of Communist attack, Admiral Radford replied: "You will have to ask the Chinese Communists. It increases their capabilities."

Neither Admiral Radford nor Mr Robertson wished to discuss any details of their talks with Chiang Kai-shek.

Mr Robertson said they had a very useful exchange of views. He said: "We discussed many problems."

They would say only that they reported the results of their visit to President Eisenhower and declined to go into any detail.

Asked if they left Generalissimo Chiang in a "happy frame of mind", Mr Robertson smiled and said, "Yes, I think so."

Asked what "startling" development in the Formosa situation had taken place as reported this morning by the Nationalist government, Mr Robertson said he "couldn't imagine".

Speculation was that the startling development was to be the sending of troops to Formosa.

Admiral Radford said there was "no question" about the build-up of Communist Chinese forces on the mainland. He cited the building of new airfields as an example.—United Press.

PARIS TREATIES

Netherlands Completes Ratification

The Hague, May 3.

Holland deposited her instruments of ratification of the Paris treaties rearming West Germany on Saturday, a Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman said tonight.

The Netherlands ambassadors in Brussels, Washington and Bonn deposited respectively the instruments ratifying West Germany's membership of the Western European Union and NATO and the protocol authorising her rearmament and return to sovereign status.

Dutch Parliamentary procedure on the treaties was completed only last Thursday. They were published in the official gazette on Friday.—Reuter.

Plane Crashes: No Casualties

London, May 3.

A London-bound twin-engined Viking airliner carrying 26 passengers and a crew of five crash-landed at Entebbe airport, Uganda, last night, it was announced today.

No one was hurt. The cause of the crash is not known.

The Viking belonged to the Hunting Clan Airline, which operates between Europe and East Africa. It was flying from Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. This was the airline's first accident since it began its service two years ago.—China Mail Special.

MAU MAU LOSE SUPPORT

Nairobi, May 3.

Support for Mau Mau terrorism apparently is dwindling among the Embu Tribe, which numbers about 25,000.

During the past six weeks almost 70 per cent of surrendering Mau Mau terrorists have been from the Embu tribe.

The Embu tribesmen are cousins of the Kikuyu and Meru tribes in which Mau Mau activity has virtually collapsed.—United Press.

Railway Under Icecap Project

Washington, May 3.

United States Army engineers will dig under the vast Greenland icecap this summer with a view to building a subway system of electric trains to transport supplies and troops throughout the strategic northern outpost, the Defence Department announced today.

The experiment will be carried out with the permission and co-operation of the Danish government. Advance units of a 240-man party, including 60 scientists, left the United States recently to begin tunnelling through the solid ice.

The first tunnels will be dug east of the secret United States airbase at Thule.

If the experiment succeeds the Defence Department envisages the linking of its scattered arctic outposts by trains travelling more than 100 feet under the ice.

The Greenland icecap covers about 700,000 square miles.

SNOW BLOCKS TRENCH

A trench 25 feet deep and 12 feet wide will first be cut into the snow and then covered with snow blocks.

Other work will include studies of icecramp crevasses and ice cliffs as they influence access to the icecap: route-finding systems; experimental roads and airfields built with snow; and underground structures: such as storage areas, warehouses, garages and hangars.

For several years army engineers have maintained a network of experimental tunnels, trenches, corridors and shafts in the Greenland icecap going down on one occasion to a depth of more than 150 feet to test structures and the pressures and movement of ice and snow about them.

Engineers found that as they dug deeper into the icecap the snow became harder packed so that it could be sawed and shaped. Below the icecap surface air temperatures seldom rose to the thawing point and the temperature of the snow itself stayed well below freezing.

CONTRACTION

The Defence Department said that snow tunnels contracted vertically at the rate of about six inches a year, a condition which would call for periodic trimming if a transportation subway became a reality.

This would be outweighed, however, by the value of avoiding the almost constant storms and navigation difficulties which kept travel at low speeds and exposed men and equipment to considerable hazard on the icecap surface.—Reuter.

DAMAGES FOR EX-PREMIER

Paris, May 3.

A Paris Appeals Court today confirmed that the director and a writer of the French weekly newspaper Aspects de la France will have to pay damages of 6,300,000 francs (about $18,000) for slandering former Premier Pierre Mendes-France while he was in office.

The court decided against Pionel Moreux, director of the newspaper, and Pierre Boutang, the writer of a series of five articles which the court described as "particularly defamatory" and injurious to a minister of the government.—France-Presse.

Reduce, And Stay Wedded Order

Chicago, May 3.

A Judge gave Mrs Lillian Korzen until September to reduce from 190 pounds to 127.

Her husband, Michael, 42, sought a divorce on the grounds that Lillian let herself get fat. But he offered to take her back if she reduced.

Mrs Korzen promised to stay away from "fat foods."—United Press.

Husband And Wife Defy Police With Gun

New York, May 3.

A husband and wife, parents of three children, barricaded themselves in their home today at Bethel, Vermont, and threatened to kill Federal Marshals who tried to remove the woman to a hospital for mental tests.

The authorities plucked the three children from school and whisked them away to an undisclosed spot for safety.

"I'll shoot the first one to enter our door," vowed Manuel Miller, 46, a former selectman, as he paced the living room floor with a rifle under his arm.

His husky, grey-haired wife Lucille, 44, said, "We don't scare easy. We don't care if they get the army after us—we're going to stay right here."

Federal Marshals and pistol-carrying State Troopers surrounded the Miller home overlooking the White River in this Northern Vermont town of 1,650.

SANITY TESTS ORDER

Federal authorities were under orders to take Mrs Miller to St Elizabeth Hospital, Washington, DC, for sanity tests stemming from a charge earlier this year that she was advising youths not to register under the Selective Service Act.

Federal Judge Ernest Gibonson ruled on April 18 that Mrs Miller was suffering from a "maniac depression type" illness and that she was not capable of properly defending herself against the charge. She was released on $1,000 bail pending action by the US Attorney-General's Office.

Eight hours after the siege began, the Vermont Public Safety Commissioner, William Bauman, made an effort to get the Millers to give up. He entered the home with a group of reporters but Mrs Miller ordered him out of the house. Later he told newsmen that "we're letting things ease off" and indicated that the police planned no move that would start the Millers shooting.

Police roped off the street and a neighbour, Ray Durfee, pleaded with the Millers to give up. Mrs Miller promised only not to fire the first shot.—United Press.

Coal Strike In Britain

London, May 3.

Britain is now in the grip of a most serious coal strike.

Today about 30,000 miners in the Doncaster coalfields are on strike in 13 collieries. These collieries have a normal weekly output of about 200,000 tons.

The men have stopped work because they claim that their piecework rates are insufficient. Stoppages in the British nationalised coal industry have not been on a major scale but were sufficiently numerous last year to cost 470,000 working days.

So far this year coal mining has accounted for 193,000 of the 395,000 days lost by strikes in Britain, and the number of stoppages is 25 per cent higher than during the corresponding period last year.—France-Presse.

Press Conference

Washington, May 3.

President Eisenhower will hold a press conference at 3 p.m. GMT tomorrow. The time was set a half hour later than usual because the president will be meeting Republican congressional leaders beforehand.—Reuter.

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND

Washington, May 3.

The first international agreement ever concluded on the peaceful use of atomic energy was signed here today by President Dwight Eisenhower and Turkish Ambassador Ferrudin Erkin.

Under the agreement the United States will supply Turkey with six kilograms of uranium-235 together with the technical knowledge necessary to build an atomic reactor to be used for nuclear research.—France-Presse.

WEST GERMANY BECOMES SOVEREIGN STATE THIS WEEK

Bonn, May 4.

The West German Cabinet will meet here today for the last time before West Germany becomes a sovereign state on Thursday.

The meeting, presided over by the Chancellor, Dr Konrad Adenauer, will take place as usual in the first floor conference room at the Palais Schaumberg, Dr Adenauer's Chancellery on the Rhine.

The main discussion will probably be over final preparations for "sovereignty day" on Thursday. At noon tomorrow, Britain and France will deposit the ratification agreements ending the occupation and authorising the stationing of troops in Germany.

Today's Cabinet meetings also expected to decide on the proclamation Dr Adenauer will address to the German people tomorrow. This will be either during the deposition ceremony or later before the Bundestag (Lower House) or in a nation-wide broadcast.

After the deposition ceremony at the Chancellery the three allied High Commissioners: Dr James B Conant (United States), Sir Frederick Hoyer Millar (Britain) and M. Andre Francois Poncent (France), will call on the West German President, Prof. Theodor Heuss, to present their credentials as Ambassadors to the new West German state.

The High Commissioners are expected to publish a proclamation tomorrow formally announcing the abolition of the Allied High Commission and the ending of the occupation.—Reuter.

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West Urged To Help Asia Gain Political Freedom

Washington, May 3.

Thailand's Prime Minister, Field Marshal Pibul Songgram, today urged the Western Powers to help people of Asia quickly to gain political freedom and self-government.

He made this recommendation in an address to the National Press Club during which he offered a four-point programme by which he said the Western democracies could win and hold friends in Asia.

The Prime Minister's recommendations were:

1. The countries of Asia — "still young in democratic ways of government" — must be assisted by their Western friends not only to attain self-government but also how to govern properly and efficiently.

ERADICATION

In this way Western imperialism and the new Communist brand of colonialism would be eradicated.

2. The Asian countries which had the experience of "political bondage" now feared "economic shackles."

If the Western countries desired allies and friends in Asia, they must allow freedom of action in each individual Asian country. The Asians should be allowed to develop their own economic strength and so deal with the West on an equal footing.

3. Thailand attached great importance to cultural bonds with other free peoples "in order that we may pool our cultural resources and thus strengthen the moral standards of all peoples."

4. While all the foregoing points were important "we must never forget the vital part which armed strength plays in preventing Communist aggression." Collective security, strength and vigilance were necessary.

Field Marshal Pibul Songgram added: "Peace and security are seriously threatened by the military strength of the Communists and the political advantages which they acquired through negotiations and lately as a result of the Geneva conferences they have occupied half of Vietnam and two strong forward bases in northern Laos.

"This constitutes a spearhead which threatens the whole of Southeast Asia."

SEATO A BULWARK

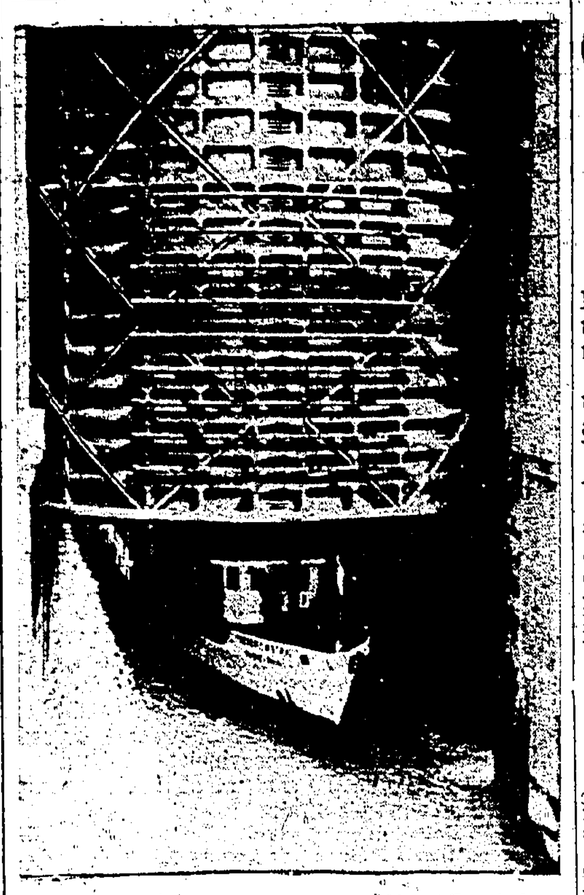
The Prime Minister said Thailand had confidence in the Southeast Asian defence organisation as a bulwark for peace in Southeast Asia and the whole of Asia.

He said China's Yunnan province appeared to be a base from which the Communists sponsored Free Thai movement might launch aggression against Thailand.—Reuter.

Paris, May 3.

French Minister for Tunisian and Moroccan Affairs M. Pierre July indicated today that Habib Bourguiba, head of the Tunisian Nationalist neo-Destour party, may be allowed to return to Tunisia in the near future.

Bourguiba is in forced residence near Paris.—France-Presse.



A ship passes through the loch of the biggest French dam at Donzere-Mondragon (the region where the whole village had to be evacuated when the artificial lake was filled with water). The dam is the holder of two world records. One is its height of 26 metres, and the other is the rate of filling and emptying, three metres per minute.—Express Photo.

Japanese Military Output Will Drop 50 Per Cent

Washington, May 3.

The United States Senate was told today that Japanese factories producing military equipment would be operating at less than half of full production this year.

A picture of the "serious decline" in this part of the Japanese economy was presented by Senator John Sparkmen (Democrat, Alabama) in a Senate speech supporting President Eisenhower's low tariff trade bill.

The bill, he said, would help Japan to secure export markets needed for her survival as a free nation.

The Senator pinpointed a cutback in United States procurement of military material in Japan as a damaging blow to that country's economy and its industrial complex of 126 major firms, capable of producing $100,000,000 worth of arms, munitions and maintenance services a year.

He quoted statistics showing that in the 1951-54 period, the United States purchased through its off-shore procurement programme almost $300,000,000 worth of these companies' products. But orders for the current year were only slightly more than $12,000,000 worth, he said.

This, added to the estimated $35,000,000 worth of orders for equipment for the Japanese self-defence force, totalled slightly under one half of full production.

SERIOUS DECLINE

"Unless steps are taken to find markets for the remaining $50,000,000 worth of military products and services, a serious decline in that segment of the economy will take place in the later part of the year, Senator Sparkman said.

He added: "Here the problem is not only that most Asian countries are not in the market for that type of commodity but that the United States restrictions on weapons and technical information presently used and produced by the Japanese concerns, prevents those companies from dealing with certain potential Asian customers."

As another drawback he noted that export of such military items was discouraged by the United States practice of paying for them in local currency rather than in dollars.

This removed the items from the export category and from the special Government preferences and allocations to which industries in that category were entitled.

Senator Sparkman also pointed to the "burden on the Japanese economy" of maintaining a 100,000-man self defence force and on paying a $161 million contribution to the support of United States forces stationed there.

LIMITED ACCESS

Speaking of non-military products, he pointed to "disturbing signs" that the economic vitality of Japan would be impaired by limited access to the markets of the United States, Europe and the British Commonwealth of Nations.

His counter argument to the demands of home textile industries for greater production against Japanese imports was that the 1954 imports of cotton textiles was mere one-half of one per cent of United States production.

On the other hand, Japan purchased about 25 per cent of American raw cotton exports, he said.

The Senator, who represents a cotton producing state, questioned the wisdom of risking of possible cut in the Japanese purchases for the sake of blocking the "mere dribble" of imports.

At one time during his speech only one Republican Senator and the Senate's presiding officer were in the 96-seat chamber.—China Mail Special.

Bottled Up But Not By Police

Copenhagen, May 3.

An 11-year-old Danish youngster who for a whole night careered madly through the Danish countryside in a variety of stolen vehicles, hotly pursued by the Jutland motorised police, was found sound asleep this morning in a farm hayloft, clutching an empty sherry bottle.

The boy had stolen 25 vehicles in the past fortnight, the police enquiry established this morning.

Two nights ago, the boy ran away from home with his father's tractor, ditched that and stole another three vehicles before making off with a railway repair tricycle. He managed to jump off that just before it was flattened by an on-coming train.

Then he took a lorry and zipped along at a great speed until he hit a mile-stone and plunged into a ditch.

Scrambling out of that accident, the boy took refuge in a nearby farm where he stole the bottle of sherry. He was disturbed by the owner and jumped out of the window, running to hide in the farm barn, where he was found this morning.—France-Presse.

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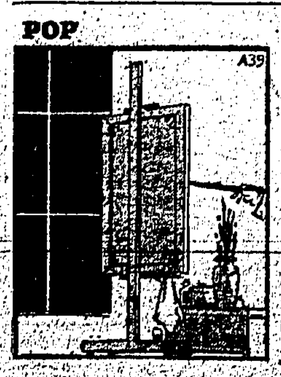
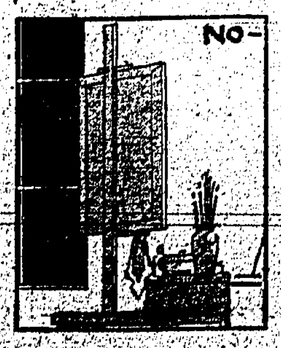
John Mills and Valerie Hobson in CHARLES DICKENS' GREAT EXPECTATIONS

POP





Van Pop

CALEY make wonderful chocolates

AUSTRIAN TREATY TALKS ENTER TOUGH PHASE

Future Armed Forces And Refugees Prove Stumbling Block

Vienna, May 3.

Big Four delegates broke up here tonight after their second day of negotiations on a state treaty restoring Austria's sovereignty without issuing a "progress report."

After the first session yesterday, which made considerable headway, the Soviet delegates were forecasting the conference would be "over in 48 hours."

But the delegates have no indication tonight how close they were to agreement. They announced that no communique would be issued, as it was last night.

FIVE HOURS

At today's session, which lasted five hours, the delegates were believed to have gone into the toughest phase of their bargaining.

It was learned from reliable sources that today's agenda included articles 16 to 33 of the draft state treaty.

These articles deal with displaced persons and the future Austrian Army, its equipment and training.

Despite the fact that no official communique was issued certain indications were obtainable from people who attended the meeting which showed that today's session did not make as much progress as that of yesterday.

Paragraph 16, dealing with displaced persons, was first discussed. The Austrians put their point of view which was that this clause should be altered so as not to give anyone the right to interfere in their internal affairs. The Americans strongly supported the Austrian case.

They objected to the clauses of the treaty forbidding organisations in the refugee camps "engaged in activities opposed to the interests of the Allied and associated powers."

SOVIET SATELLITES

This clause would rule out the organisation of propaganda for the liberation of the satellite states which are "associated powers" of the Soviet Union.

Eventually further discussion on article 16 was postponed.

After article 16 had been deferred for future consideration as the Russians could not accept the changes proposed by the Austrians, discussion began on the military clauses.

Here too the Austrians stated their case and were supported by the Americans. But the Russians were adamant in their refusal even to discuss any changes in these clauses. They took the attitude which was advocated in the article in the Moscow Pravda two days ago—that any proposal to increase the force or improve the armaments of the Austrian Army was part of a plan to build up Western strength.

In the end most of the military clauses, articles 17 to 33, were also deferred for future consideration.

Thus very little progress was made today. Nevertheless the atmosphere was reported to have been cool and arguments were not heated.

The treaty's military articles at present limit Austria's total land strength including frontier guards and gendarmerie to 53,000 men. Her air force is restricted to 90 planes and 5,000 men. They also forbid her to have "special weapons" like atom bombs or to organise any form of military training except within her permitted forces.

The article prohibiting military training would prevent Austria introducing conscription or building up her reserves. The ban on Austria possessing "special weapons" includes self-propelled or guided missiles and guns with a range of more than 18 miles.

Austrian officials claim these clauses would infringe the sovereignty the treaty is supposed to restore.

They also argue the armed forces laid down in the draft treaty are not sufficient to enable Austria defend the "neutrality" she is pledged to pursue.

WEST CONFIDENT

But Western circles here were confident that most of the problems could be resolved leaving only a few of the "hardest nuts" for the British, Russian, French and United States Foreign Ministers to crack, when they come to Vienna to "consider and sign" the treaty.

The Soviet Ambassador, Mr Ivan Olylchov, was in the chair at today's session. Britain and the United States were also represented by their Ambassadors, Sir Geoffrey Wallinger and Mr Llewellyn Thompson, and France by her Charge d'Affaires here, M. Roger Lalouette.

Dr Leopold Figl, Austrian Foreign Minister, is representing his country at the talks.

Despite today's slowing down in the rate of progress made, the general atmosphere was still one of optimism, according to the strictly unofficial remarks of one of those who attended the meeting today.—Reuter.

London, May 3.

The five-nation disarmament conference, which had not met for a week because of the indisposition of the Soviet representative, Mr Jakob Malik, held a session here this afternoon and will meet again tomorrow.—Reuter.

Hannibal's Victims

Rome, May 3.

Workmen digging foundations for a house near Perugia yesterday discovered bones of Roman soldiers killed in a battle against Hannibal's Carthaginian army over 2,000 years ago.

Experts who examined a number of skeletons found about three feet underground at nearby Montebuono di Magione said they most probably were the remains of some of the men of Consul Caius Flaminius who were defeated and slaughtered by Hannibal's elephant-spearheaded army in the battle of Lake Trasimeno in 217 BC.—United Press.

EASTERN SEAMEN

Should Have Better Conditions

London, May 3.

A conference of British seamen was today urged to do everything possible to get better conditions for seamen in the East.

The call came from Mr Omer Becu, General-Secretary of the International Transport Workers Federation, who was speaking at the annual meeting of the British National Union of Seamen.

"Out of sheer selfishness, and for self-preservation, we must try to bring about better conditions for our brothers in the East," he said.

LOW WAGES

Wages of Indian and Pakistan seamen on international trade were no more than £9 15s a month, he added.

"When you see and hear these figures you will see the cut-throat competition it can mean for the bona fide maritime countries of the West," he said.

Mr Becu also told the conference that there were able seamen on local trade in the Far East earning only £5 3s a month.

SUPPORT NEEDED

Mr Becu said that shipowners and governments of the major maritime countries should support a claim for an international minimum wage of £16 a month.

"Japan is now coming back into the international field of competitive shipping, and if she is going to continue to pay only £8 3s a month for an able seaman, we are going to be pushed out of business," he added.

From the end of this month, under a new agreement, British able seamen will get a minimum wage of £27 10s a month, rising in four years to £31 10s.—Reuter.

800 CIVIL SERVANTS SACKED

Valletta, May 3.

The long, leisurely peace of the Maltese working man is over. And the realisation of it came with a jolt last week:

First....

New Socialist Premier Dom Mintoff sacked 800 government-employed men because the Government could not afford to pay so many.

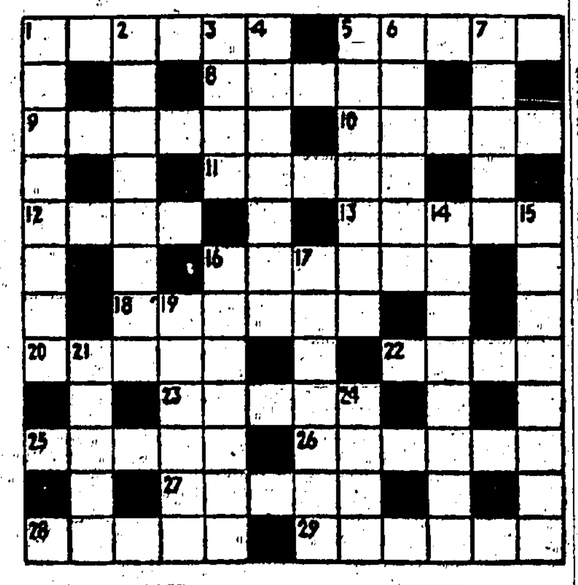
And those of the Maltese Government workers who had voted for ousted Premier Borg Olivier just so they would keep their jobs were wishing that plenty more had done so, too.

But he had warned them, said Mr Mintoff. He had warned Olivier's Nationalists before the election that it was wrong for a government to employ hundreds of men, just to get their votes.

Then....

Works Minister Ellul Mercer said that workers were not working hard enough. And what he said next sounded more than a little like some of the things that are heard at points East: "Disciplinary measures alone are effective. Workers have been allowed to work as they please."—*London Express Service.*

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1 Preserve container (3, 3)
5 Birds (5)
8 Horizontal (5)
9 Breakfast dish (6)
10 Deprives of feeling (5)
11 Entitled (5)
12 Grip with teeth (4)
13 Reposes (5)
16 Lower in value (6)
18 Piece (6)
20 In that place (5)
22 Catalogue (4)
23 Savoury jelly (5)
25 Flat plates (5)
26 Sober (6)
27 Fruit (5)
28 Mount (5)
29 Annoy (6)

DOWN

1 Footwear (8)
2 Nautical (8)
3 Make name (4)
4 Tells (7)
5 Prevalent (7)
6 Gets away from (6)
7 Wooden shoe (5)
14 Silt (8)
15 Judgment (8)
16 Attired (7)
17 Blessing (7)
19 Soothsayer (6)
21 Lift (5)
24 Geometrical shape (4)

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 3 Acid, 7 Limit, 8 Used, 9 Haul, 10 Berates, 12 Lark, 15 Terse, 18 Lead, 19 Dares, 21 Bliss, 22 Rise, 23 Emits, 26 Trot, 29 Assents, 30 Rank, 31 Iota, 32 Story, 33 Prey. Down: 1 Dives, 2 Dilates, 4 Class, 5 Dull, 6 Heir, 9 Herd, 11 Tense, 13 Acre, 14 Kiss, 16 Edits, 17 Abet, 18 Lido, 20 Asserts, 22 Risk, 24 Manse, 25 Start, 27 Room, 28 Trap.

Jimmy Kemp Says Goodbye To His Children

Singapore, May 3.

Old Jimmy Kemp, from Glasgow, said good-bye last week to Malaya—and his 48 adopted Chinese children lined the streets, weeping, and sang "Auld Lang Syne."

Jimmy, who is 79, first came to Malaya on Christmas Day, 1900. He ploughed through some of the world's thickest jungle to search for tin. And he found it.

He founded a mining company and opened up a large part of the country to civilisation.

He fought off secret societies and bloodthirsty tin-pirates. He brought prosperity and order to thousands in a place where there had been no law—except the law of the jungle.

At the mining town of Kroh, he said good-bye. He was sailing for Britain. He was getting old and wanted to retire.

"Be good," he told his 48 "children." They all have names like Angus and Sandy.

The children brought him gifts, and wept some more.

And a piper of the Royal Scots Fusiliers played farewell.—*London Express Service.*

FRENCH GET LESS THAN THEY EXPECTED

Paris, May 3.

THE United States will pay $100 million (about £35 million) to France during 1955, to defray the costs of the French Expeditionary Corps in Indo-China.

This was agreed at the end of Franco-American technical negotiations here today. They have been going on since early this year.

It means that France will have to find some 65,000 million francs (about £65 million) extra from her own coffers. France counted on spending 155,000 million francs (about £155 million) in the provisional Budget estimates.

France had expected the United States to pay 100,000 million francs (about £100 million) but the American aid agreed today totals some $35,000 million francs (about £35 million). This money has already been appropriated by the United States Congress.—Reuter.

Runaway Plane Crashes In France

The "runaway" RAF Varsity plane that vanished while being chased over London during the night crashed on a house in a village in Northern France. A woman, a man and two children were killed. No trace could be found of the pilot, Indian-born Manik Agnani, who took the plane from Thorney Island RAF station, near Portsmouth. The £250,000 plane is buried deep in the wreckage in the miner's village of Vicq, near Valenciennes, in Northern France.

Picture shows: Firemen playing their hoses on the wrecked house in the village of Vicq, near Valenciennes, in Northern France.—Express Photo.

COTTON CLOTH DUTY CUTS

India—'Reasonable' Lancashire—'Yes, But...'

Bombay, May 3.

Mr Neville Wadia, Chairman of the Bombay Millowners Association, said today that the reduction on import duties on British textiles was "fair and reasonable" to both Lancashire and India.

According to the Press Trust of India he said he thought the concessions would not cause any "serious adverse effects" on the Indian Industry.

Mr Shantilal M. Shah, President of the All-India Importers Association, said that the Indian Government had made a "generous gesture." He hoped Britain would respond appropriately by maintaining the import of Indian textiles at the high level reached last year.

UNION COMMENT

Mr R. S. Thoneskar, General-Secretary of the Bombay branch of the Indian National Trade Union Congress which controls the majority of textile workers, said the reduction was bound to affect both the mechanised and the cottage industry sections of the Indian textile industry.

DECISION WELCOMED

Manchester, May. 3.

Lancashire textile leaders welcomed India's decision.

But they emphasised while the cuts might help Lancashire increase exports to India, they will do little to solve Lancashire's present difficulties which stem heavy imports of foreign cloth, particularly from India.

An official of the Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers Association said: "The real problem facing us is the increasing volume of Indian cloth reaching Britain."

Indian mills sold 133,000,000 yards of cotton grey cloth to Lancashire last year while Lancashire's shipment to India totalled only 3,270,000 yards.

The President of the United Textile Factory Workers Association, Mr William Roberts said "what we should like to see in order to help Lancashire most is a quota on Indian cloth imported into Britain, calculated on the average imports over a number of years."

Meanwhile with a large number of cotton mills in Oldham working short time, Socialist MP Leslie Hale, tomorrow will ask Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden what steps the Government propose to take to deal with the situation in the cotton industry which is one of increasing gravity.—Reuter & United Press.

BUCKETS OF COINS

Johannesburg, May 3.

The generosity of people using the Johannesburg Railway Station is causing the railway authorities a headache. Three times now they have taken buckets full of coins from the fish pond in the station concourse.

In February, the Railways granted the South African Guide-Dogs Association permission to use the pond as an inducement to the public to contribute to the funds of the Association. People were urged to drop a coin in the pond. The campaign lasted 14 days, but still people continued to drop coins in the pond as they passed.

When the pond was cleaned out for the third time three bucketfuls of coins, ranging from a penny to half-crowns and estimated to total between £50 and £60 sterling were retrieved.—China Mail Special.

Linda Christian Gets Divorce

Tyrone Preferred To Be Alone

Hollywood, May 3.

Linda Christian was awarded a divorce today from Tyrone Power after sobbing on the witness stand that the film star was "cool and distant" and preferred to "be alone."

The beauteous red-haired actress was granted an interlocutory divorce decree and a million-dollar property settlement after a 15-minute hearing before Superior Judge Edward Brand in nearby Santa Monica.

She also received custody of two children, with Power getting two months' visitation rights each year.

The attorneys for Miss Christian refused to estimate the amount of alimony and property settlement, but friends said that it would be more than $1,000,000.—United Press.

Unsolved Problems In Indo-China

ARMISTICE REPORT

By Stanley Priddle

London, May 3.

Good progress has been made in carrying out last year's Indo-China armistice agreements, but important problems remain to be solved in all three States, according to an official report published here today.

The Armistice Commission, composed of India (Chairman), Canada and Poland, said the outstanding issues were largely political ones, settlement of which was handicapped by the "suspicion and fear engendered by years of strife."

The report, sent to Britain and Russia, chairmen nations of the Geneva conference which ended the eight-year Indo-China war, said:

1. Vietnam. The military agreements—dividing the country at the 17th parallel and providing for the withdrawal of both sides to their respective areas—had "on the whole" been carried out on time. But there was "room for improvements" by both the Communist Vietminh in the north and the French Union-South Vietnamese authorities in permitting the "democratic freedoms" stipulated in the armistice agreement.

INCOMPETENCE

Most of the Commission's charges were concerned with freedom of movement which, it said, was hampered by administrative incompetence and obstruction.

(The Geneva agreement said people should be allowed to move freely from one zone to the other for a period of 300 days, which expires on May 18.)

The Commission was still investigating charges that both sides were receiving military reinforcements contrary to the armistice provisions.

2. Laos. Military withdrawals by both the French and the Communists had been carried out "in time and almost without incident."

But delay in achieving a political settlement through the incorporation of the Pathet Lao resistance movement into the community was causing a serious situation in the two northern provinces on Phong Saly and Sam Neua. The Commission warned the Geneva Powers that further delay might lead to "more serious and more frequent clashes" between the rival forces who were side by side there.

3. Cambodia. Military peace had been "largely accomplished" though the Cambodian Government was dissatisfied and believed there might be a further insurrection. The Commission said the political rehabilitation of the country was still "far from completed" and was now "extremely urgent." There must be free elections, in which members of the former Khmer resistance movement must participate freely.

Diplomatic sources in London reported that the British Government was highly critical of the section on Vietnam, claiming that parts of it were seriously misleading and unjust to France and the South Vietnamese.—Reuter.

ELEPHANT TUSK DUMPING

CONTROL URGED

Salisbury, May 3.

A scheme to prevent the dumping of ivory on world markets "like so much trash" has been put forward by a Salisbury ivory dealer, Mr A. M. Levy.

Mr Levy said in an interview that his scheme—a system of Government marketing control—would raise funds for the development of territories involved.

He pointed out that though ivory was becoming a rare commodity, today's prices fluctuated between 10s and 20s per lb., which he said was lower than 50 years ago.

The four countries controlling production are Britain, France, Belgium and Portugal.

DOUBLE PRICE

He suggested fixing the release of ivory each year at 50 per cent of the average world consumption, which would double the price and—incidentally—help to redress the dollar position.

"America," he pointed out, "is a big buyer."

The price paid to hunters could be fixed at the present level, and the surplus from the scheme might be used for colonial development.

Mr Levy said that ivory was an indestructible commodity which could be stored at little cost. Dealers in Africa, however, could rarely afford to hold out for a price.

DOZEN FIRMS

"They throw it on the market, which is handled by a dozen firms in Europe, for what they can get for it. Despite the fact that big elephant tusks are extremely valuable—if judged by their rarity—buyers in Europe and America control the price."

Prices to the manufacturers were now negligible, and he thought they would willingly pay more.

Mr Levy, who has been an ivory dealer for 20 years, said that apart from a big influx after the war following the groundnut scheme and the clearing of new areas for settlement, total production was not more than 30 tons a year—all from Africa. Before the war, production had sometimes gone up to 60 tons.—France-Presse.

No Iran Bases For Foreign Powers

Teheran, May 3.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abdullah Entezam told Agence France-Presse here today, "Iran will never cede military bases to a foreign power and will never consent to act as a springboard for an attack against the Soviet Union."

As regards the question whether Iran had given up her policy of neutrality, the Iranian Foreign Minister, said, "Our policy has never been founded in the past on the principle of neutrality. The truth is that we have always tried to preserve our independence and we are continuing to do so."

He reiterated Iran's right to defend herself and to decide freely on her foreign policy.

"We have let the Russians know on several occasions that nothing will prevent us exercising our sovereign rights within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations," he said.—France-Presse.

Deer Drowned: Ministry Sued

Mulhouse, May 3.

Because more than 100 deer from a game preserve were drowned while drinking from a canal that crosses the La Harth forest in the Haut Rhin Department, the French Ministry of Footpaths and Bridges may find themselves faced with a bill for 3,385,000 francs.

The owners of the preserve and the neighbouring villages are bringing the case before the Colmar courts here on May 17.

They claim the deer met their death because they slipped on the cement verges of the canal while trying to clamber out of the water after drinking, and accuse the Ministry of not providing means for the animals to regain dry land.—France-Presse.

Did it happen?

Another in this series of FACT OR FICTION tales

THE DEMON WITH THE LONG FINGER-NAIL

—by Elspeth Huxley

● Born and brought up in Kenya, Mrs. Elspeth Huxley now lives and farms in Wiltshire. She has won fame as a writer of novels, travel books and biography, as a critic and as an expert on East Africa, which she frequently visits. Her husband, Gervas Huxley, is vice-chairman of the International Tea Market Expansion Board. They have one son.

YOU would not have thought Eliot Pringle to be a game ranger of renown. He was short, stocky and benign; about 40; strong as an ox; quiet-mannered, a bachelor, with two hobbies—photography, which you would expect, and tapestry-work, which you would not. It suited his tiny, patient yet creative mind, and he was very neat-fingered.

Now he was fretted by his inability to lay his hands on any evidence about the ivory-smuggling he'd bee sent to investigate in the little port of Lamu, on the East African coast.

Lamu is an old, old Arab town, founded more than a thousand years ago, standing on its mangrove-fringed island in the warm Indian sea like some forgotten fragment of another world. The streets, flanked by high Arab houses built of sand and coral, are so narrow that only two can walk abreast. Heavy black veils envelop the women; the men in long white robes and embroidered waistcoats, are satin-mannered, idle, handsome and voluptuous: ardent Moslems, too.

Smuggled Ivory

Lamu is full of mosques. Through finely carved wooden doors you glimpse antique silver lamps of great beauty, woven mats, and cool, silent simplicity.

Lamu lives, precariously, on trade conducted in dhows, those ancient Arab sailing craft still built here, all by hand, lateen-rigged. Mangrove poles are almost its only export. Food must reach it through reef and monsoon in these little dhows, manned by Arabs knowing nothing of charts and radios. It also had a thriving trade in smuggled ivory, got by poachers without licences and exported without paying duty. And so the Game Department had sent one of its aces to clean up the place—if he could.

Another quest had taken me to Lamu and I was glad to accept Eliot Pringle's hospitality. He inhabited an old Arab house just outside the town. His neighbour was a rich Indian, Ahmed, and behind his house rose the smooth, grey minaret of one of Lamu's 28 mosques, whose *im'amu* (the preacher) had a great reputation for holiness and supernatural powers.

"The stuff comes in," said Eliot, "and it goes out—between whiles it's here in Lamu. Where? Damn it, ivory's big and solid, it's not like cocaine or a handful of diamonds." He stitched away at his tapestry as he spoke.

Ahmed had dropped in, as he did quite often; the two men, so different, were friends. Ahmed was small and dark and keen-eyed, with fine bones and fingers adorned with rings. He had a smile of great sweetness, and wore a turban, and small beard.

"You can't be sure it comes to Lamu," he suggested.

"That's about the only thing I am sure of—this is the shipping point. There must be some man behind it all—a dhow owner perhaps.

They mulled it over for some time and then turned to a topic in which I, personally, was more interested; the folk lore of Lamu and its ruined palaces and mosques. There is even supposed to be a whole city buried under the sand.

"There is a legend," Ahmed told me, "like your Bible story of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lamu became so wicked that God was angry and destroyed it in a single night. A great storm covered it with sand."

Eliot laughed. "I don't think that changed people's habits."

Haunted . . .?

"If you were to walk across these sand-dunes," Ahmed went on, "you would come upon many bones. They are all that is left of an army from the island of Pate that came to conquer us. No one goes there now; it is haunted."

"Do you believe that?" I asked.

"I have never been to see. There is a special demon there, people will tell you; a venerable old man, a kind old man, who comes forward to offer the traveller a calabash of water. For it is very hot on those sands. You take it and drink. The old man lifts his left hand. His little fingernail is long and sharp as a razor and it slits your throat."

"And have you ever known that happen?" Eliot asked.

Ahmed smiled. "I know you Europeans are sceptical—unless it is a matter of carrying mascots or seeing saucers flying in the sky."

Ahmed had whetted my curiosity. I resolved to explore the sand-dunes and risk the demon with the long fingernail.

I had to postpone my visit, however. Eliot had heard that several dhows were to set sail next day for the Persian Gulf, and he was convinced that, somehow or other they were to carry ivory. He had a search-warrant but knew that no man would be allowed to enter the women's quarters, search-warrant or no search-warrant. He thought they wouldn't be able to refuse me. I volunteered, of course.

The dhows were carrying piles of mangrove poles, sacks of *durra*, woven mats and assorted human beings. Eliot and his askaris practically pulled them apart, incurring the murderous looks of a very murderous crew of Arabs.

Then my turn came. In mid-deck stood a ramshackle sort of hut, made of planks and mats: the women's quarters. I went in. It was quite dark inside; no windows, no ventilation. It smelt of rancid oil, rotten eggs and tar.

The women were swathed in yards of black cloth, their faces, even, completely covered. I thought of the monsoon, the heat, the sea-sickness, and shuddered. Each woman had her wooden box of possessions, but there was certainly no ivory.

Eliot came away discouraged, but still not satisfied. Soon after five the dhows moved off down the narrow channel, while the crews beat their drums and played on their guitars, as was the custom. It was a stirring sight but it didn't please Eliot.

'This place bad'

"Innocent as babies," he muttered. "We even dredged the bilge. And yet—and yet——".

I could do no more to help him, and started early next day to explore the sand-dunes covering the wicked ancient city. My sole companion was Eliot's servant, Hussein, a bright, sophisticated lad who wore his tarboosh at a rakish angle and had been to a Government school. A boat took us to the north end of the island and we stepped ashore into a tangle of bush and grass, through which peered old, grey stone sarcophagi.

"A Moslem cemetery," explained Hussein.

"But who's buried here?"

"The people of the city under the sand." He paused, and did not seem at all anxious to continue.

"Why do you come here?" he added. "This place is bad."

"What's bad about it?"

"*Shitani*," he said, using the Swahili word for spirits, devils.

"If you are a good Moslem you will have nothing to fear." He still looked unhappy.

We toiled on for about an hour, getting hotter and hotter. The sun drenched the sky, ourselves, the parched grass that soon petered out into sand which gave way before our aching feet.

☆

THE old man came closer . . . he smiled and stretched out his hand with the calabash of water . . .

☆

We seemed alone at the waste end of the world. I stubbed my feet on something and leant down to pull out a whitened skull. The empty sockets stared up at me mutely — beyond protest, beyond despair. We came then to a garden of bones. Bleached white as chalk they lay there, sole remnants of a great army that had invaded the island and never returned.

I fled . . .

Hussein stood stock still. "We must go back," he said.

"Soon," I agreed. "We will rest a little first." It grew hotter and hotter and I was thirsty as a dry sponge.

Looking round at Hussein, I saw that he was standing stiff as a pillar, staring past me across the dunes. His face bore a look of horror, his lips were pulled back in a grin of anguish and fear. Then I saw coming towards us and about a hundred yards away a tall, thin bearded man. He held out a calabash of water in his right hand.

We both stood transfixed. I said to myself: Don't be an idiot, this is just an old Arab offering water; spirits don't walk in the sunshine, they are midnight things. But my eyes dropped to his left hand. It was concealed in his robe.

The old man came closer; his face looked fatherly, benign; he smiled and stretched out his hand with the calabash of water. It was too much; abjectly surrendering, I turned and fled. Hussein had preceded me. Some way off, gasping for breath, I turned to look. The old man had disappeared.

At last we reached the belt of bush, the cemetery and the sea. It was delphinium-blue, sparkling, infinitely reassuring. We sat together on a tombstone, panting and watched four white sails out at sea.

"The dhows that went out yesterday," Hussein explained.

'Demon' garden

And then, on our way back in the boat (rather shamefaced), the whole thing came to me, the whole picture. I chased Eliot all over Lamu until I found him, and poured out what I suspected—knew really—and my plan. At first incredulous, he said:

"Well, we'll give it a try. Go home and rest, and leave me to make the arrangements."

That night, we set out again by boat, this time in darkness, just before moonrise. Eliot had borrowed a motor-boat from the District Commissioner, who came too, with a policeman and some askaris. We moored the boat behind a bluff and scrambled through bush towards the sand dunes, making an awful racket, I thought but keeping as quiet as we could. It was rough going. I tried to lead them, as best I could, towards the demon-haunted garden of bones.

We caught them red-handed. The "women" I had seen huddled in the dhows' cabins were really—I was going to say slaves, but I suppose they were not, strictly speaking; they were people from the outer islands very much under the Arabs' thumb. They were carrying the ivory across the sand-dunes from the garden of bones, where it had been roughly buried. There was no need to go deep, for ivory is white, like skeletons. Then they were loading it into the dhows.

Holy man

We didn't see again the demon with the calabash of water; he only walked by day, I suppose. I'm still not quite convinced that he was *not* an apparition. There was something about him incredibly sinister. But I suppose Eliot was right, and that he was a cleverly contrived guard.

Although we caught the dhows and their crews and many thousand pounds worth of ivory, Eliot couldn't find the organiser of the whole thing. So he got the holy man at the mosque to lay on this unknown individual a special curse reserved for robbers and renegades. Quite soon, and quite suddenly, Ahmed left Lamu with his affairs in some disorder and did not return. After that, the ivory smuggling languished. Or, rather, switched elsewhere. Eliot was in Kismayu when I last heard.

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DID IT REALLY HAPPEN?

YES	NO

● Put your tick in the space above and keep this panel by you until tomorrow . . . when the answer will be given—with another story in this series by . . .

NIGEL BALCHIN

● Did yesterday's story—The Card Said Cocktails, by Eric Linklater—actually happen? The answer: NO.

NATHANIEL GUBBINS

AS it would be impossible to frighten my poor little readers more than the Governments of the Big Three have been frightening them with their boasts about bigger and better H-bombs and guided missiles we will assume that the world blew up yesterday, leaving a few survivors and a bundle of last week's newspapers.

We will further assume that a remote descendant of two of the survivors has found the newspapers and has written a critical review of what ordinary people were doing just before the day of doom.

Here is the review:

★ ★ ★

FOR a long time it has been believed that the masses were not aware of their impending fate during the years of the middle 20th century, but recent research has shown that official statements, broadcasts, and newspaper reports made the perilous position clear to almost anybody but an imbecile. Therefore their indifference to the situation and their astonishing behaviour in the face of almost total extinction can only be explained by a stubborn refusal to believe the worst.

For instance, the following item appeared in a newspaper less than a week before the end.

"Housewives of Liberal, Kansas, U.S. have high hopes that they will beat their rivals of Olney, Buckinghamshire, England, in tomorrow's pancake race. They do not think the Englishwomen have anybody to beat Mrs Binnie Dick, last year's champion."

The next day it was reported that Mrs Dick won the 415-yard race in 1min. 5.1secs. in a snowstorm.

"Tomorrow" refers to Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. This was the beginning of Lent, which was a period of fasting observed by the few who clung to their religious customs in a cynical and unbelieving community.

The pancakes, made of eggs, milk, and flour, were fried in pans or skillets and were originally intended as a feast before the Lenten fast, but why the pancakes were tossed in the air and caught again in the pan as housewives, living thousands of miles apart, raced each other over a measured distance will never be explained.

One can only assume that the 20th-century housewives frying pancakes and racing each other through the snow under the threat of a world in flames were even madder than first-century Nero, who fiddled while Rome was burning.

★ ★ ★

NEWSPAPERS of the same fateful week were full of photographs of the new spring fashions for women worn by models and admired by spectators who seemed unaware that they would never see the spring.

Rich women of the period were going to look "slinky" and wear what was known as the "I" line to replace the "A" line, though in view of what happened the "H" line would have been more appropriate.

The newspapers were also full of reports of a scare on the Stock Exchange. To enlightened people like us who have never used money and have only read about it in history books as useless pieces of paper, the Stock Exchange is hard to explain.

But the main idea was that business promoters asked the public for pieces of paper in return for shares in their enterprises promising to pay pieces of paper back in the form of dividends. If there was confidence in the enterprises shares would increase in value and the owners could sell them at a profit, one of the few methods at the time of acquiring pieces of paper without paying income tax.

On the other hand, if confidence in the enterprises was lost either through Government intervention or panic selling the value of the shares dropped and the public lost millions of pieces of paper.

In fact, the Stock Exchange and the whole monetary system was nothing but a vast confidence trick, and for us, looking back from our trouble-free society it is difficult to understand why our wretched ancestors living in perpetual fear and spiritual darkness, could concern themselves so much about pieces of paper which would all disappear in a few days.

★ ★ ★

ANOTHER matter that was troubling people at the time was the price of various joints of meat.

"Joints of meat" were the limbs of dead animals cooked and eaten with great relish by our savage forefathers, and "price" meant the number of coins or pieces of paper they exchanged for these gruesome feasts.

It is interesting to observe that in the correspondence columns the value of meat as a diet was doubted even then. One writer pointed out that those who could afford the least of it lived the longest. He was referring to Government pensioners, whose longevity was an embarrassment to an administration hoping to reduce taxation.

Apparently he missed the opportunity of suggesting that the Government would save money in the long run if they increased the pensions so that the old people could buy more meat and cease to be an embarrassment at an earlier age.

According to a letter in another correspondence column yet another worry in those days was the high taxation on tobacco and cigarettes.

Cigarettes were little cylinders of paper filled with a dried leaf called tobacco which men and women lighted and smoked through their mouths.

Although cigarettes were bad for their health and gave them hideous coughs the unhappy people found them soothing for their nerves already shaken by the second world war.

When the Government found that the majority of the population could not do without these comforts cigarettes were savagely taxed in order to raise more money to manufacture more terrible weapons of destruction and make the people's nerves even worse.

About this time the chief statesmen of the world were either making threatening speeches or uttering veiled threats by giving details of their new armaments. It was announced that the British Army was to have atomic weapons and that Britain could make her own hydrogen bombs, up till then exclusively manufactured by America and Russia.

Four days before zero hour a new aircraft-carrier, the Ark Royal, believed to be armed with aircraft capable of delivering bombs of great destructive power, was launched. A priest, known as the Chaplain of the Forces, blessed the ship. Prayers were said and hymns sung.

★ ★ ★

BUT not many people were concerned with such matters. During the cold, grim winter of 1955 thousands were looking forward to their summer holidays. Sea trips were advertised, plans were made and accommodation in ships and hotels booked.

That week the mayor of Margate, a seaside town in England, said he was leading an expedition to the Romney Marshes to find a frog to represent his country in a frog-jumping championship to be held in South Africa the following May. He wanted to discover a frog that could beat Leaping Lena, ace frog of South Africa, which had recorded a jump of 23ft.

Keller Breland, an animal trainer of Arkansas, U.S. was training goats to dance, chickens to play baseball and poker (one a ball game, the other a card game) and pigs to do household work such as straightening up an untidy room. He said that pigs which were eaten in large numbers, either boiled, roasted, pickled, smoked, or in the form of sausages (minced pig in little skins), were almost as intelligent as human beings.

Apparently they were more intelligent than American housewives, who, according to an item, were "so spoiled with domestic gadgets that they were incapable of doing ordinary housework such as cleaning up the parlour."

★ ★ ★

PERHAPS the strangest behaviour reported only three days before zero hour concerned a game of marbles usually played by little children.

When a woman prominent in London society asked a Mr George Burbage, of Tinsley Green, Sussex, England, described as secretary to The British Marbles Board of Control, to teach her to play this game so that she could demonstrate it on television he replied that marbles took many years to learn and that women were barred from official games.

He also said that he regarded the proposition of showing the game on television as an insult to the Marbles Board of Control and demanded an apology.

★ ★ ★

TWO days before the zero hour confidence was restored on the Stock Exchange. Shares increased in value. More pieces of paper were acquired and people concerned in these matters were happy for the next 24 hours. But Government intervention put an end to all this, and their last day was spent in gloom and depression.

(World Copyright.)

LAWYERS TANGLE OVER HITLER'S FORTUNE

From COLIN LAWSON

Berlin.

HITLER is the central figure in a legal battle now going on in West Berlin. For when he died in his concrete air-raid shelter just ten years ago, the dictator had property valued at 500 million marks (£40 million). Now the ownership of that fortune is being disputed.

Hitler's death has never been registered officially in Berlin. To the registrar he is only "missing."

Under early Allied Occupation laws German courts examined cases of legally dead Nazis, including Goebbels, Goering and Ribbentrop.

Where they were formally declared major offenders, their property was seized and the proceeds used to help concentration camp victims and people who fled abroad leaving their possessions behind.

It is now too late to declare legally that Hitler was a Nazi for all de-Nazifying has finished and no new cases can be started.

GROTESQUE

Said a lawyer: "Thus you have the grotesque situation of small Nazis who have been punished by heavy fines and confiscation of property, while Hitler's property cannot be touched.

"No one has been found who can swear he saw Hitler's dead body. A member of his staff said he carried a body from the air raid shelter. He was told it was Hitler's, but he did not see it for it was covered with a blanket.

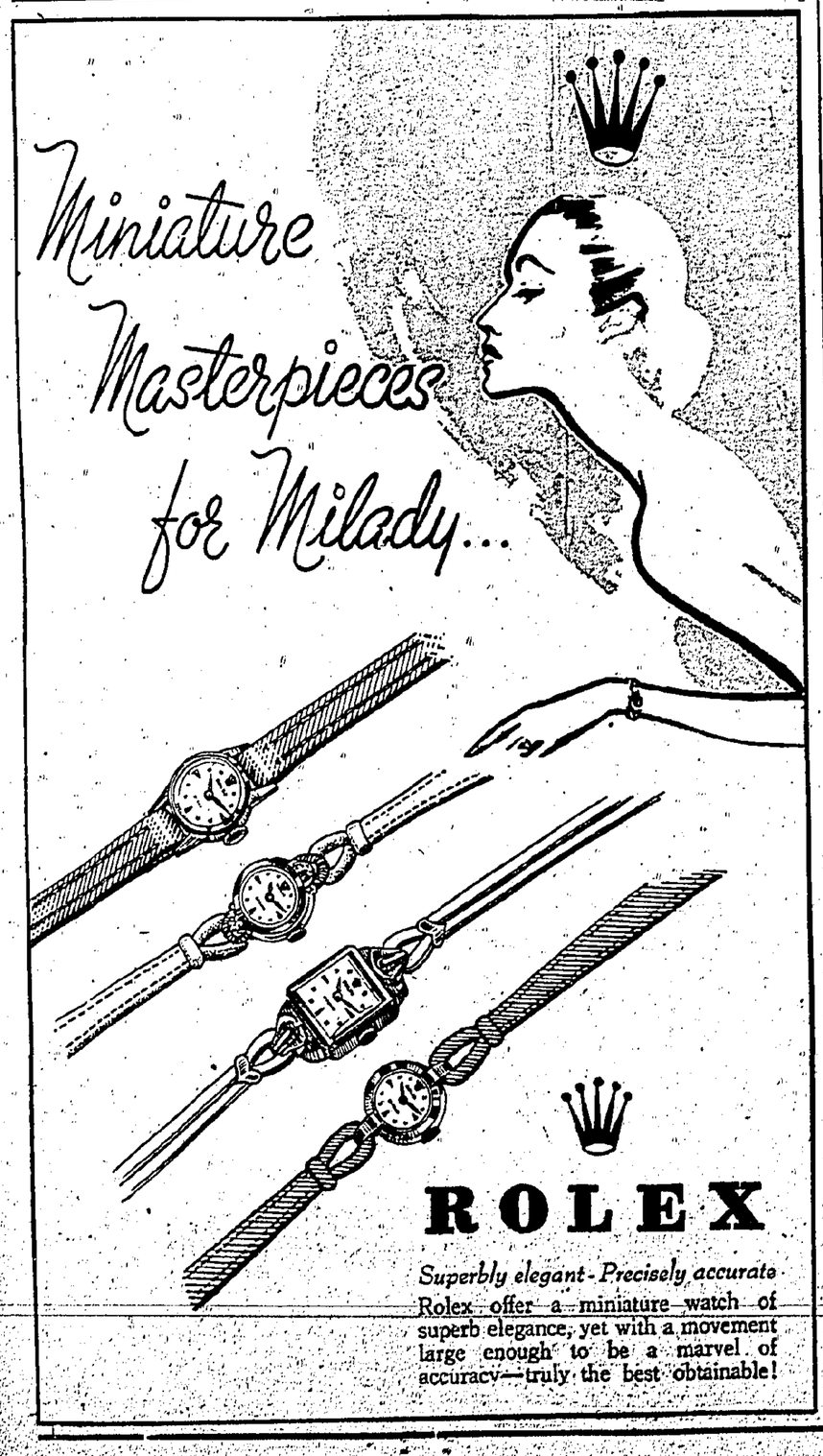
"He did, however, see Eva Braun's body."

Hitler left millions in royalties from Mein Kampf and other books. He also owned a big share of a huge Nazi publishing firm in East Berlin. In his will he left all this to the Nazi Party.

But after the war the Party was dissolved and the will pronounced worthless.

What will happen to the fortune? Lawyers say that because Hitler has not been legally declared a Nazi, relatives could get the money.

His sister, Ida Wolff, who lives in Bavaria, and the parents of Eva Braun, whom Hitler married just before his death, have already put in claims for the estate. So, too, has Heinrich Hoffmann, Hitler's photographer and Eva Braun's uncle.



• JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Here's An Example Of Good Bidding

By OSWALD JACOBY

THE bidding in today's hand was energetic, but quite reasonable. West wouldn't have opened the bidding in first or second position with only 9 points in high cards, but the strong six-card suit amply justified a third-hand opening bid. North, with 19 points in high cards, was too strong for an overcall of one no-trump and therefore began by doubling for a takeout.

East might have passed over the double, but his actual bid of one heart cannot be criticised. He thought that this would be his only cheap chance to show his suit, and there was no particular risk in doing so at the level of one.

South was glad to hear the bid of one heart since it gave him the chance to show a little strength with a "free" response of one spade. The bid showed strength because it was clear that South would have passed with a completely worthless hand.

Once South showed a sign of life in this way, North could well afford to show the true strength and nature of his hand by making a jump bid in no-trump. From here on it was easy to get to game, and it was more or less a toss-up whether to get to game in no-trump or in spades. As it happened, the same basic play was needed for either game contract.

NORTH 21
♠ A Q 8
♥ K 10 4
♦ K Q 6
♣ K Q 9 8

WEST
♠ 7 4 3
♥ 8 5
♦ A J 10 9 8 4
♣ A 5

EAST (D)
♠ 6 5
♥ A J 9 7 3
♦ 7 2
♣ 7 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K J 10 9 2
♥ Q 6 2
♦ 5 3
♣ J 10 3

North-South vul.

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Double
1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass	2 N.T.
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead—♥ 8

West opened the eight of hearts, and South simply had to know the right play for the heart suit. It is clear that West has led his highest heart, and that East therefore has a long suit headed by A-J-9. How should declarer handle the hearts?

If South plays a low heart from the dummy, East will signal encouragement by playing the seven. South cannot refuse the trick, since then West will continue the suit and ruff the third round.

The contract will then be set two tricks. But if South wins the first trick with the queen of hearts, West will regain the lead with an ace to lead another heart; and the defenders will then get two heart tricks and two other aces.

South must begin by playing the king of hearts from the dummy. East must win the trick, but cannot afford to lead another heart. (If he does, South lets a low heart ride to dummy's ten.) No matter what East returns, South has time to set up a diamond or a club in the dummy on which he can discard a heart, after drawing trumps. Thus the opponents are limited to one heart trick and the other two aces.

♥ CARD Sense ♦

Q—The bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1 Club	Pass	1 Diamond	Pass
2 Clubs	Pass	?	

You, South, hold: Spade 7, Hearts K-J-7-4-2, Diamonds A-Q-J-8-6-5, Club 4. What do you do?

A—Bid two hearts. You intend to bid hearts again, later on, to show that your secondary suit is rebiddable. You want to play this hand at game in one of the red suits eventually.

TODAY'S QUESTION

The bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1 Club	Pass	1 Diamond	Pass
1 Spade	Pass	?	

You, South, hold: Spades 9-7-3, Hearts J-8-7-4, Diamonds K-Q-6-5-3, Club 4. What do you do?

Answer Tomorrow

"Giants, Dodgers, Giants, Dodgers! And you talk to me about watching old movies that I've seen before!"

YOUR BIRTHDAY ... By STELLA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

BORN today, you have an exceptionally vivid imagination but, unless you put it to work for you in the creative arts, it is likely to become a handicap instead of a real asset. It would be just as easy for you to imagine things to worry about as it is for you to be original, dramatic, or witty in your writing or conversation. You are basically the scholar and have a great respect for factual knowledge. Science, particularly in the field of experimentation and research, fascinates you and with the proper training you should become outstanding in this field.

You have a high degree of adaptability and no matter in what situation you find yourself, you are usually able to adjust with considerable ease. Although you have an instinct for good business methods, you are not as saving as you might be and there may be a time when the lack of capital for the advancement of your work will be most frustrating. Save those pennies for the proverbial "rainy day" and you won't ever be caught off balance financially.

You have a friendly nature, and will probably be the centre of your social group. Your intuitions are strong. Let your heart be your only guide when it comes to selecting a marriage partner. In that way, you will find complete happiness.

Among those born on this date are: William H. Prescott, historian; A. L. Erlanger, theatrical producer; Thomas Huxley, biologist; Horace Mann, educator; and Harold Bell Wright, author.

To find what the stars have in store for you tomorrow, select your birthday star and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

THURSDAY, MAY 5

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)—A fine working day. Make out a careful schedule and adhere to it. You will make excellent progress.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)—Your own sign is not especily auspicious but if you are positive and confident, all works out well.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)—Be alert to anticipate any possible unexpected trouble. Forewarned, you know, is forearmed.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)—You may combine business and social pleasures advantageously, if you wish. Ask the boss to dinner!

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)—Worry never helps anything. If you can't figure out a solution, just forget it! Best in the long run.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)—If you have a new business opportunity offered, investigate all details. If sound, accept.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)—An idea today may prove to be the basis of your future success. Act on it at once.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 22)—You may widen your circle of friends at some interesting social event. Accept invitations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—A fine day for anything you may want to attempt. The sky is the limit as far as ambitions go.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—Material gains may not be high, but your increase in prestige may enhance your earning power.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)—This can be a romantic day but, make sure that all your plans for the future are carefully made now.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)—If your hopes are not too high in the clouds, today's results will prove to be thoroughly gratifying.

☆ TARGET

THE EXPRESS WORD GAME

R	O	T
L	S	A
I	R	A

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters in the square on the left. In making each word the letters in each of the small squares may be used once only. Each word must contain the large letter in the centre square, and there must be at least one nine-letter word in the list. No plurals; no foreign words; no proper names. TODAY'S TARGET: 12 words good; 34 words very good; 45 words excellent. Solution tomorrow.

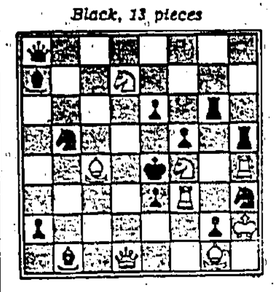
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Aery, ayery, ayper, ayyer, yeay, GEOGRAPHY, goer, oopher, gore, gorge, gory, grape, graph, grapy, grey, grog, grope, hare, harp, harpy, hear, hero, hoar, hoary, hoggery, ogre, opera, orpy, oyer, pare, payer, pear, pore, porge, porgy, pray, prey, proa, pyre, rage, rape, rean, repay, rhea, rope, ropy, year, yore

CHESS PROBLEM

By A. W. DANIEL

Black, 13 pieces



White, 8 pieces.
White to play: mate in two.

Solution to yesterday's problem:

1, B×P, any; 2, Q, R, Kt, or P mates.

WOMANSENSE

EVENING GOWN WITH A LONG TORSO

Nina Ricci presents "Chatoyante", an evening gown of silk organdy with printed floral designs on a pale pink background. It is styled in the latest long torso line.—Agence France-Presse.

Peanuts Provide Taste Accent And Are Rich In Protein

By Ida Bailey Allen

"IT'S peanuts." In slang, this expression meant something inconsequential. But today with the turn of fashions in foods, to say "It's peanuts" is to imply something good. For the researchers have discovered that peanuts are one of our best vegetable protein foods.

"I was interested to learn, Madame," remarked the Chef, "that raw peanuts can be put through the food chopper, or boiled whole and used in making many entrees. Now, what about the red peanut skins, have they any food value?"

"Oh, yes, Chef! Those red skins are rich in thiamin; peanuts are also a good source of riboflavin and niacin, as well as phosphorus, calcium and iron. Roasted and salted peanuts give a rich taste and added nutrients to many prepared foods.

"Let's give our readers some of the appetising results we have obtained with peanut cookery:

Meat and Peanut Loaf: To 1 recipe for any kind of ground raw meat loaf, add 1 c. freshly ground unskinned raw peanuts, or use roasted peanuts. Bake as usual.

Peanuts Rissolees: Spread skinned raw peanuts in the pan when roasting poultry, pork, smoked ham, veal or rabbit.

Peanut Potato and Celery Salad: Make potato and celery salad as usual. Just before serving, mix in plenty of coarse-chopped rosted or salted peanuts. Garnish with more whole peanuts.

Peanut Potato Slices: Cut cooked potatoes into lengthwise slices ½-in. thick. Cool; spread with butter or margarine. Top with fine-chopped roasted or salted peanuts and press into the potato. Brown in a hot oven.

Peanut Sundaes: Cut a pt.-sized carton of vanilla ice cream into 4 cubes. Cover with fine-chopped roasted peanuts; serve surrounded with butterscotch or toffee sauce.

Dinner

Tomato Aspic on Chicory
Meat and Peanut Loaf
Panned Sweet Potatoes
Baked Onions
Pineapple Frozen Dessert
Hot or Iced Coffee or Tea Milk

All Measurements Are Level
Recipes Serve Four

Pineapple Frozen Dessert

Make up 1 pkg. vanilla dessert mix as directed on the box, using milk. Chill until half-frozen. Pour into a refrigerator tray and chill until frozen at least 1 inch around the edge of the tray.

Turn the mixture into a bowl and whip with a rotary beater until creamy smooth and doubled in volume. Then add ½ c tinned crushed pineapple and 1 tsp. lemon juice.

Return to the tray and freeze until firm. Serve plain or with a sauce of slightly crushed sweetened raspberries or strawberries.

Suggestion of the Chef

Stir the contents of one (2½-oz.) tin flaked tuna into tomato aspic while thickening; chill until firm and serve with sauce tartare.

CO-ORDINATE BEAUTY AIDS FOR HARMONIOUS EFFECT

By HELEN FOLLETT

THE ensemble idea is popular in beauty as well as fashion.

We have learned that dress, coat, hat, shoes, handbag and costume jewellery must have a pleasing relationship with each other, that clever combinations of colour play a big part in the picture of the lady of fashion.

Cosmeticians have jumped on the wagon with their complexion ensemble offerings. Powder, rouge and lipstick must be in accord, do perfect team work.

A part of the ensemble movement is unity in the use of perfume. Creams of one scent must not conflict with powders of another. Bath salts, toilet water, dusting powders should not be of varying fragrances, since one may destroy another's fine qualities. It is smart to hold to a single scent, using it for all your fragrance accessories.

The ensemble idea is fascinating, something to which every woman should give thought when she is buying clothes and make-up. She should carefully consider the lines and colours of her frocks, select beauty aids to go with them.

The kind of hairdo she wears must have a relationship to her figure and type. There are coiffures that belong distinctly to youth and slenderness; there are others that are appropriate and becoming to middle age.

Good taste and the reflection in the mirror will guide one to the right choice.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

Having Hundreds Of Pets

—Mr. Punch's Father Was a Dog Catcher—

By MAX TRELL

"WHEN you were a boy," Knarf, the shadow with the turned-about name, asked his old friend Mr Punch, "did you have a dog for a pet?"

Repeat, Please!

Mr Punch who was sitting in his chair in the sunny window, looked up from the newspaper he was reading to say: "Huh?"

Knarf repeated the question.

"When I was a boy," Mr Punch now replied as he laid the newspaper aside, "I had hundreds of dogs for pets."

These words astonished Knarf. "Hundreds of dogs?" he said, just to make sure that he had heard Mr Punch, correctly.

"Hundreds of dogs," Mr Punch said again. "In fact, thousands of them."

Knarf thought that all this needed investigation. He therefore pulled up a chair and sat himself down directly in front of Mr Punch. "I'd like to know more about that," he said.

Vast Number of Dogs

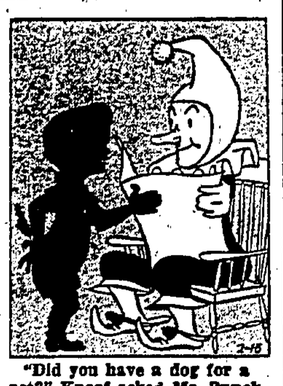
"Certainly," said Mr Punch. "I'm not surprised that you are puzzled. There aren't many boys who can boast of having hundreds or even thousands of dogs for pets. But it's all very easily explained. My father was a dog catcher!"

This was the most surprising news of all. "He was! said Knarf.

"My dear Knarf," said Mr Punch, "there was hardly a day when my father didn't come home with several dozen dogs. I remember one Tuesday when he came home with three poodles, seven or eight collies, some English, Scotch and Irish terriers and eighteen or twenty Pomeranians. We already had quite a number of other dogs. I took care of them all."

"But Mr Punch," said Knarf, "you didn't keep all those dogs, did you?"

"No," replied Mr Punch, "but I made pets of them just the same. Most of them were lost dogs. The people who owned them would come for them sooner or later. Nevertheless, as long as the dogs were in my care, I made pets of them. I used to feed them, walk them, run them and play with them. I also had cats."



"Did you have a dog for a pet?" Knarf asked Mr. Punch.

Knarf couldn't help envying Mr Punch. "I wish I had as many pets as you had when you were a boy."

A New Occupation

"Easily arranged," said Mr Punch, as he picked up his newspaper again. "Just get your father to give up whatever he's doing and become a dog catcher."

Knarf sighed. "That's easier said than done, Mr Punch," he said.

Rupert and the Inventor—31

"Now then," says the inventor. "Listen carefully. I'm sending you to fetch my third testing engine and bring it to me. If anything goes wrong you've only to press this homing button and you will return here." And he fastens a round badge on Rupert's right arm. Then he replaces the square badge on his left arm. "That's the fetching button," he adds. "If you're away too long I'll fetch you back by pressing my own." Then, rising briskly, he leads Rupert to his travel machine and lifts him into it.

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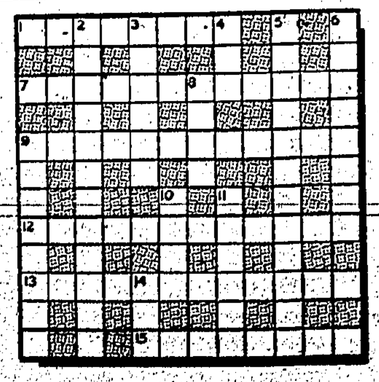
CROSSWORD



Across
1. The submarine comes up. (8)
7. Does this bird never have a night on the tiles? (5-7)
9. Midnight ones are pitched in the dorm. (6, 6)
12. Black baby from Limerick. (9, 3)
13. Quality of being correct. (12)
15. The giving away. (8)

Down
1. Bows for nonsense. (12)
2. King of the fairies. (6)
3. Cheltenham for instance. (3)
4. This gives light in a restricted area. (6, 7)
6. Liquidates on the cricket field. (5, 3)
8. Cardinal of the rhyme. (4)
9. Thy wasp, a mix up (8)
10. She knew the King of Siam. (4)
11. May describe a rabbit. (2-3)
14. Mr Burns. (3)

Yesterday's solution

NEW FABRICS for Summer BY "GILBRAE"

WILLO CHIFFON VOILE
Soft Cool Fine Quality Voiles in Thrilling New Designs. Attractive Modern Florals 39 inches wide.

SHIP AND SAIL FABRIC
A New Plain Weave Fabric, Tailors Beautifully, Attractive Golf Pattern Tebilised for Crease Resistance 36 ins.

CRISP-COOL COMFORT

STAR OF FASHION
A Collection of very Smart Modern Prints on an attractive new cloth, fast colours and tebilised 36"

BEAUTY BROADCLOTH
A Delightful Poplin in Self Colours. Crease Resisting and Fast. In White, Black and Eleven Bold Fashion Shades. 36 ins.

NOW ON DISPLAY

Whiteaways
HONGKONG & KOWLOON

•WHITEAWAY, LAIDLAW & CO. LTD•

Miss Diana Yung receives her prize for the Ladies' Junior Doubles from Mrs A. M. Rodrigues at Craigengower last night.

Ramon Young, the Colony's Thomas Cupper, recaptured the Open Singles title last night when he beat contender Bill Funk in straight sets, 15-11, 15-4 at Craigengower. Picture shows Young taking a drop shot in the final against Funk. — China Mail Photo.

BADMINTON FINALS

BILL FUNK STARTS WELL BUT FALTERS, S.K. WONG COMPLETES HIS TRIPLE

By "TOUCHWOOD"

The old saying of 'like father like son' rang true again in last night's finals when diminutive and bespectacled S. K. Wong emulated the feat of his father, Patrick Wong, by emerging a triple Champion on the concluding night of the Hongkong Badminton Association Championships at Craigengower Cricket Club.

Wong, who earlier had won the Junior Men's Singles and Doubles titles, collected the Junior Mixed Doubles title as well, this time in partnership with Miss Chan Yuen-yue. Wong and Miss Chan overcame George Ma and Miss Diana Yung in a final that had a generous share of tense moments.

Wong's better courtcraft and manoeuvring, coupled with a sterling display by Chan Yuen-yue, won them the Mixed Doubles title in straight sets, 15-11, 15-8.

The match was closer than the scores suggest. It was a point for point affair from the opening service to the winning stroke.

George Ma and Diana Yung lost not because they could not cope with the aggressiveness of their opponents but because of far too many out court shots in the crucial stages.

At one stage they looked like running away with the title, but Miss Yung, who was not her usual self last night, had the misfortune of being fouled for wood and to make matters worse she netted easy shots repeatedly.

Bill Funk of Craigengower missed on another attempt to capture the Men's Open Singles title that has been eluding him for the past three years. Last night his old adversary, Ramon Young, the Colony Thomas Cupper, recaptured the title with a straight sets victory of 15-11, 15-4.

It was an uphill battle for Ramon Young, especially in the opening set when his opponent surprised everyone by jumping to a commanding 8-1 lead. It was the base lob for lob strategy that gave Funk this initial supremacy over Young.

The Champion, who played right into Funk's hands, sent out a continuous series of outs in the course of base rallying and had he not switched over to drop shots tactics when he found he could not match his opponent at full base lobs he would have lost the first set.

Ramon Young won the toss and took the first point when Funk misjudged a baseline shot. This was the only point Young scored for in the next seven minutes, he was controlled by his opponent at every rally.

Funk made it one-all when Young hit out a base lob and then took the next seven points in a row mainly through mistakes committed by Young in base to base rallies.

Then Ramon Young switched over to lob and drop shot tactics and this changed the whole aspect of the match.

Funk began to give away point after point to Young until the score stood at 8-8. A pushout at the net then gave Funk the service and he made it 9-8 with a net-skimming drop from the baseline.

Then Young brought in his smash for the first time and it was nine-all. The next service by Young saw Bill Funk letting the shuttle drop inches inside and then a lob out by his opponent gave the Champion a 11-9 lead.

At 9-12 Ramon Young misjudged a baseline shot which he thought was out but the shuttle fell right on the line and the score was 10-12.

There was still a fighting chance for Bill Funk to take set for he seemed to be unaffected by the fast pace. But at this stage accuracy at lob shots which earlier had been point scorers for Funk left him and he went on to lose the set at 15-11.

The next set was a complete rout of a fast tiring Bill Funk. He could only take one in four net drops and in the occasional rallies Ramon Young was the complete master. Of the four points Funk got in this set three came off mishits from Young. Young won 15-11, 15-4 to recapture the Open Singles title.

TITLE CHANGES HANDS

The holders of the Senior Open Doubles title, Robert Tay and Patrick Wong, found the combination of Junior Pomeroy and Dr Low Keat-soo far too superior a pair in attack and defence for them to retain the title and they lost 8-15, 8-15.

Both pairs represented Hongkong in the Thomas Cup matches at India and though this final was far below Championship standard, there was some very fine retrieving by both pairs.

In fairness to Robert Tay he played his best to stem the onslaught of Pomeroy and Keat-soo. It was most unfortunate that his partner was off his usual form last night. Patrick Wong could do nothing right. His smash was ineffective and his baseline returns only reached half court for either Keat-soo or Pomeroy to kill with hard smashes.

Pomeroy reeled off seven points after the doctor took a 1-0 lead at service. The combination of Tay and Wong fell to pieces when their opponents delivered smash after smash.

It was 10-3, 10-6 and 14-8 for Pomeroy and Low and then a woodshot by Wong saw set going at 15-8 to the Champions.

Keat-soo took a 6-2 lead on his third service of the second set and then it was Pomeroy's turn to score and before long they led 13-2. Then Tay and Wong struck a good patch with Wong scoring six points to bring the score to 14-8.

After this it was the Champions all the way for whatever resistance Tay and Wong had in them was smoothered by smashes to give set, match and the title to Pomeroy and Low.

S. K. Wong became Junior triple Champion when with Miss Chan Yuen-yue as partner they triumphed over George Ma and Miss Diana Yung in a straight sets victory of 15-8, 15-8.

Wong had earlier won the Junior Singles title, beating Wong Wai-hung, and the Doubles with Sui Chuen as partner, beating B. Brown and H. J. Xavier.

In the Mixed Doubles final last night it was mainly the brilliance of Wong's partner that turned the scales in their favour. Chan Yuen-yue played the best badminton she had so far in the tournament.

Miss Chan was in top form, scoring point after point with her effective net shots which invariably caught Diana Yung on the wrong foot.

The first set was so closely contested that hardly three points separated the two pairs. It was 6-6, 8-8, and 11-8 in Wong and Chan's favour but towards the close woodshots by Ma and Yung gave the Champions the set at 15-11.

The second set saw Wong jumping to a 4-1 lead. George Ma made it 5-5 with some forceful smashing. Wong and Miss Chan came into their own after this. With Miss Chan guarding the net without any let-up they reached 12-8. A smash into the net by Ma, a hit out by Diana Yung and another mishit ended the match with Wong and Miss Chan winning at 15-8, 15-8 to annex the Junior Mixed Doubles title.

S. K. Wong and Miss Chan Yuen-yue (left) and Miss Diana Yung and George Ma pictured before the Junior Mixed Doubles final at Craigengower CC last night. Wong and Miss Chan won 15-11, 15-8.—China Mail Photo.

Cycling Has Come To Stay

A Season That Will Be Long Remembered Is Drawing To A Close

By "N'TACA"

No matter how long cycling continues to be a sport in the Colony, the season just drawing to its close will remain one of the most outstanding. Not only for the number and quality of its racing but also for the innovations which have marked its progress.

The Hongkong Cycling Association, so long mooted, became a reality, and is already a force in the sport. The first race outside the Island and New Territories, the Macao Massed Start, earned by its spectacle and the interest it aroused the right to ask that it become an annual event..

And next Sunday, the first race between riders from Hongkong and Singapore will be held, with a possible return event in Singapore later in the year. Truly, we have come a long way since our first 10 Miles Time Trial in the August of 1953.

Apart from the Macao and Singapore races, the programme has included 13 Massed Start Races, 20 Time Trials and two Hill Climbs, with a Team Time Trial thrown in for good measure. An analysis of the results may prove interesting to the student of Racing Form.

Of the 13 Massed Races, Hurford took five first places; Wilkinson four; and Rylance and Beck two each. Team placings were, REME CC, 10 firsts; 7 Hussars, two; and Exiles CC, one. The races were over distances of from 32 to 91 miles, all of them on New Territories Circuits or the Kai Tak closed Circuit.

Beck leads the table of individual Time Trial winners with five, Rylance and Hurford close up with four each. Rolt, three; Gower, two; and Bouch, Sanderson and Phipps one each finish the list.

On the team side, REME CC again head the list with 11 victories, with the 7 Hussars boys next with three. Cygnets CC, Exiles CC and the Pegasus CC have one each.

In three events there was no Team award.

Of Back's rides, three are Colony records. Fifty Miles in 2-5-07; 100 miles in 4-24-18 and the Grand Prix in 2-5 odd. The 7 Hussars hold the Team record for 50 miles, while REME hold the 25 miles team, and their Rylance the individual in 59-24.

TWO HILL CLIMBS

There were two Hill Climbs held, with Beck winning the HKCA Championship event, and Bouch the NTACA Championship.

The latter event was held on TWISK, with REME CC setting up a team record, and Beck obtaining a grip on the individual record in a private trial. The HKCA Team award went to the promoting club, the Cygnets CC.

There were three season-long competitions held during the nine months of racing. Beck won the "SCMP" Best All-Rounder Time Trial Cup, with two Colony records among his times. The "Lord" Best All Rounder Massed Start Shield went to Hurford, with a magnificent total of 44 points, his nearest challenger being his teammate, Rylance, who collected 21.

The Army Inter-Unit Team Championship Shield became the property of the REME CC for the next year, their total of 576 points beating that of the Hussars, who managed to acquire 484.

The Macao Road Race went to Beck with an excellent ride, his Combined RAF Team taking the first three places for a clear win. Hussars took second place and REME CC third. The local riders of the Portugese Army came nowhere in spite of some very gallant riding.

Altogether, we may say it has been a very successful season. Cycling is on a firm footing, is one of the best-publicised sports in the Colony, and appears to be here to stay. Let us on to the next season.

NO STONE UNINSPECTED

Next Sunday's race gives every indication of being a winner. The promoters, the 7 Hussars, are leaving no stone uninspected to make everything easy for the riders (except the route), even going so far as to have radio contact with the race throughout its length.

The riders from Singapore have been given full details of the course, so that the correct equipment can be used, a band is being laid on for the benefit of the spectators, and altogether a lot of work has gone into making this, their first promotion, a memorable one. There will be a full report of the event in this column next week.

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After the hurly-burly of the season proper comes the turn of the Novices. The NTACA Novices Competition starts with a 16 miles Massed Start Race on Wednesday, May 4. A good field is expected, and any rider who wishes to take part in the competition is urged to present himself, complete with bicycle, to the Start at 4 p.m.

SCAA MEETING

After my recent remarks anent Track Racing, and the lack of interest shown by the local riders, it is good to learn of the Meeting to be sponsored by the SCAA on the 29th of this month at Caroline Hill.

Two events are open to HKCA riders, the 2,000 Metres and the Three Miles, both Scratch races. No closing date for entries is given in the letter I have received, but I should advise prospective riders to enter as soon as possible.

Incidentally, the Rules for this Meeting contain a very apt, if very cruel, commentary on the state of cycles in use in the Colony. The Rule states, "Participants must have bicycles FIT FOR USE. Students, however, may use ordinary cycles". Perhaps the wording does not quite convey the meaning of the promoters.

• • •

One can never accuse the ladies of being slow off the mark. The UCI recently agreed to recognise world records for the fairer sex, and to date no fewer than four have been put up for acceptance. All these are by British riders. Is there any possibility of some of the local lady cyclists having a go? If any are interested, they can obtain any advice or assistance they may need from the HKCA.

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Stop Press Item: The Exiles CC "Hilly" 10 miles Time Trial was won by Beck, who returned to the timekeeper in 34-26, beating Bouch by 2-13, Gower filling third berth in 36-51. Of the eleven starters only one failed to finish the course.

Surrey And Yorkshire Win Opening First Class Games

London, May 3.

Surrey, the County Cricket Champions, and Yorkshire, who are expected to be their strongest challengers this season, won their opening first class games.

Surrey beat Cambridge University by an innings and 70 runs and Yorkshire beat MCC by an innings and 15 runs.

The matches were dominated by two left-arm bowlers, Johnny Wardle, Yorkshire, and Tony Lock, Surrey, who will be battling it out for test honours. Lock took four for 37 to finish with 10 for 66 and Wardle had five for 70, making his match figures 10 for 104.

Yorkshire offspinner Bob Appleyard, took six for 60 in the match against MCC.

Gamini Goonasena of Ceylon was top scorer for Cambridge. He scored 47 of a ninth wicket stand and hit five fours.

All-rounder S. Singh who has played in an Indian Test trial, hit one six and five fours in 41, his highest score for Cambridge.

Gloucestershire all - rounder John Mortimore became the second player in the match to score a maiden century with 120 against Oxford University at Oxford. Yesterday G. P. Delisle of Oxford reached a century in first class games for the first time.

Mortimore, with fluent strokes, hit one six and 16 fours. He helped Martin Young, who carried his score to 170 including one six and 15 fours in a fifth wicket partnership of 216.—Reuter.

RESULTS

At Lords:

Yorkshire beat MCC by an innings and 15 runs. Yorkshire 285 for nine declared. MCC 110 and 160 (Wardle five for 70).

At Cambridge: Surrey beat Cambridge University by an innings and 70 runs.

Surrey 328. Cambridge University 82 and 176 (Lock four for 37).

At Oxford: Oxford University-Gloucestershire match was drawn. Oxford University 383 for eight declared and 111 for two (Williams not out 64). Gloucestershire 368 for eight declared (Young 170, Mortimore 120).

At Leicester: Leicestershire-Worcestershire two-day friendly match was abandoned because of rain. Leicestershire 165 for six declared (Tompkin 62). Worcestershire 22 for one.

At Nottingham: Nottinghamshire-Derbyshire two-day friendly match was abandoned because of rain. Derbyshire 95 for four declared (Lee 54, Revill not out 53). Nottinghamshire 30 for one.—Reuter.

Maj. Brewer Wins Colony Epee Title

The Colony Epee Championships were held at the European YMCA on Monday evening and resulted in a clear cut victory for Major George Brewer A.E.C. with 8 victories and 3 defeats.

At one time it looked as if there would be a barrage for first place for Day, Hung Hak-to and Y. H. Lee each had 7 victories and one more fight but each lost their last fight and so barraged for second place. In the barrage Hung Hak-to defeated Day 3-0 and Lee 3-2 to become runner-up. Day defeating Lee 3-0 to take third place.

It was most encouraging to see three Chinese fencers in the first 5 places of a senior competition and they all fenced well.

Owing to shortages of judges and Presidents, the competition had to be fought in one piste under P. G. Williams who presided continuously from 6.15 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.

Details are as follows:

1st Maj Brewer (Army) 8 wins—2nd Hung Hak-to (CFC) 7 wins—3rd Sgt. Day (Army) 7 wins—4th Y. H. Lee (CFC) 7 wins—5th F. Fang (CFC) 5 wins 21 hits against—6th Sgt Forbes (Army) 5 wins 24 hits against—7th Capt. Eberhardie (Army) 5 wins 27 hits against—8th J. Marcal (HK Sword Club) 4 wins 23 hits against—9th R. Lynn (CFC) 4 wins 28 hits against — 10th Chan Sion (Army) 4 wins 27 hits against —11th I. F. Pugsley (RAF) 3 wins—12th Lam Si Lap (CFC) 2 wins.

TKO'd Boxer In Critical Condition

Providence, Rhode Island, May 3.

Jose Contreras of Taunton, Massachusetts, was reported to be in a critical condition today from a technical knockout suffered last night in a bout here.

The 28-year-old middleweight collapsed after Bob Bolton of Providence won on a TKO in the 8th round. Contreras was taken to a Providence Hospital from his dressing room where an emergency brain operation was performed during the night.

Doctors said that Contreras suffered a subdural haemorrhage near his right ear.—United Press.

Moore-Olson Title Fight Practically Set For June

Las Vegas, Nevada, May 3.

Archie Moore's Light-Heavyweight title defence against Middleweight Champion Bobo Olson is "practically set" for one of the New York ballparks in the week of June 20, Moore's manager, Charley Johnston, said today.

"I expect the match to be closed within 24 hours," he explained. He said Truman Gibson, executive secretary of the International Boxing Club, was in San Francisco to "straighten out some minor details about terms" with Sid Flaherty, Olson's pilot.

Gibson flew to San Francisco last night after witnessing the 38-year-old Moore's 15-round non-title triumph over big Nino Valdes of Cuba in the Nevada twilight at Cashman Field.

Archie's strong finish earned him referee Jim Braddock's decision over the top-ranking heavy contender.

Johnston said the Moore-Olson fight in New York was expected to draw more than 600,000. Moore will be making his fourth defence of the 175-pound title, which he won from Joey Maxim at St. Louis on December 17, 1952. He defended twice against Maxim and once against Harold Johnson.

Although Archie weighed 196½ pounds last night, he believes he can pare down to the 175-pound limit again and be strong enough to beat Hawaiian-born Olson of San Francisco. He said his 196½, the highest of his career, was much too heavy and that he would have been much faster at about 185.

Olson's 160-pound crown will not be at stake in the Moore bout. Bobo probably will scale close to 170 in order to get more meat behind his punches. Olson earned the right to the title shot by outpointing ex-champ Maxim last month in impressive fashion. He had rugged Maxim on the floor twice.

Moore's fight with Olson will be an "interim bout" while Archie is waiting for a September shot at the heavyweight title, according to Johnston. By defeating Valdes, top heavy contender, Moore became the outstanding challenger for Rocky Marciano if Rocky keeps his crown against Don Cockell of England at San Francisco on May 16. Truman Gibson of the IBC said Archie's impressive win made him a "must" challenger.—United Press.

HOME SOCCER

London, May 3.

Association Football results:

League III North

Barnsley W, Rochdale 0.
Carlisle 1, Gateshead 2.

Glasgow Charity Cup

First Round

Rangers 3, Third Lanark 1.
Thistle 1, Clyde 2.—Reuter.

Russians Keep Games Organisers Guessing

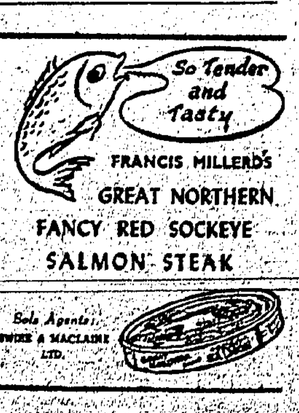
Melbourne, May 2.

Russian plans for the 1956 Olympic Games remain an Iron Curtain mystery which leaves a number of loose ends for officials busy preparing for the big event.

"It is very difficult," says Brigadier C. M. L. Elliot, Games housing and catering manager, "In fact we do not even know officially if they are coming."

The Russians are expected to send a team of 400, probably bigger than that of the United States. Officials believe the Soviet delay is due to the absence of diplomatic relations between Australia and the Soviet Union. The breach followed the defection of a former Embassy member, Vladimir Petrov, and his wife in April, 1954.—United Press.

THE GAMBOLS . . . by Barry Appleby



MEMORIAL CUP-1st Rd-REPLAY

HONGKONG CHINESE—6, COMBINED SERVICES—4

BRILLIANT TONG SHEUNG WROTE HIS AUTOGRAPH ALL OVER THIS FINE GAME

By I. M. MacTAVISH

Regular followers of football in Hongkong know only too well the enthusiasm with which the fans greet a goal scored by one of their favourite stars. When there is a capacity crowd, as there was last night at the Club Stadium, the roar is heard for miles around. Yet here we had the unusual spectacle of seeing Yiu Cheuk-yin running in to score a vital second goal for his team ..... and it was received in almost complete silence by even the most loyal of the Chinese spectators.

The reason was not far to seek. When the little South China wizard got the ball he appeared to be standing 10 to 12 yards off-side. No flag was raised; no whistle sounded; and Yiu Cheuk-yin went ahead to round Beveridge and tap the ball into the net. The stoney silence of the fans tells the story of that counter more emphatically than anything I could write about it would do.

This goal which came in the 18th minute put the Chinese Boys in front for the second time.

Yiu Cheuk-yin had opened the account in the 8th minute with a sparkling run through in the inside right position, but seven minutes later Walmsley weaved his way into the Chinese rear lines and his flashing finishing effort was turned into his own net by Lok Tak-hai.

Whatever may have been the cool reception accorded Yiu Cheuk-yin when he got his second goal there is not the slightest doubt that his third was a magnificent one and deserved every note of the loud and sustained cheer it brought forth. In a dazzling run at top speed he left four opponents sprawling behind him before he lashed an unsaveable shot past Beveridge.

The Services were still in the game however in a big way and their powerful forward dashes gave the Chinese defenders a lot of trouble.

GRAND TRIES

Hau Yung-sang could make nothing of Walmsley who left him standing time after time. Morris, working like a Trojan had bad luck with several grand tries that had Tam Nai-huen beaten but either came back off the woodwork or sailed narrowly over the bar.

However the Chinese boys are never more dangerous than when defence is suddenly changed to attack and so it proved again. Clark pushed the ball back to Walters but the soldier's forward pass was a bad one and Tong Sheung sent it flashing down the left wing to Mok Chun-wah.

The little winger did a spot of interchanging with a team-mate before sending a high hanging lob into the goalmouth. There was for the fraction of a second some indecision in the Services' defence and in came Ho Cheung-yau to head the ball into the net. This gave the Chinese a 4-1 interval lead that they hardly deserved on the balance of play.

Within two minutes of the restart the lead was cut to a couple of goals when Hayes converted a penalty kick at the second attempt. The game was really alive again and a minute later Morris got another one into the net only to have it—quite correctly—chalked off for off-side.

Both teams threw everything into the fray and goals were as likely to came at one end as at the other, but a bad blunder by Clark more or less finished whatever hopes the Services had of saving the game.

Away back helping his defence he got the ball out of a melee to the right of his own goal. He had time to move the ball upfield and well out of danger but instead he elected to make a risky pass and Tong Sheung ran on to the ball and from just outside the penalty area sent it crashing into the back of the net.

It was a brilliant opportunist goal but it should never have happened. With the score at 5-2 the Hongkong Chinese went after more goals and in the 23rd minute Chu Wing-keung pushed the ball wide of Beveridge. It looked certain to run into the net but Ho Cheung-yau came racing in to push it home and make certain. Score 6-2.

The lead was substantial but the scoring was by no means over.

CHANGED COMPLEXION

Walmsley was still giving Flash Harry a roasting—a roasting incidentally that the full back was all too obviously not enjoying one little bit — and when he received a neat pass from Walters he beat several men before being brought down in a heap. The ball broke loose too Clark however and the airman lost no time in cracking it into the net. 6—3!!

Five minutes later the whole complexion was changed again when Murray rose above everyone in the goal mouth to head in a perfect corner from MacLennan. 6-4 . . . and 10 minutes still to go. The Services piled on the pressure and the Chinese defence looked anything but safe. Ho Cheung-yau was working hard to relieve the pressure but had not quite recovered from the shock of having what looked like an absolutely good goal chalked of for some infringement that mystified the players on both sides as much as it did the crowd.

Murray and Morris tried all they knew to get another goal. Both had tries that just missed and Morris again had the misfortune to hit the post. The defences held out and the game finished with no change in the scoresheet.

Tam Nai-huen never quite reached the heights that he did in the first game.....but he still had some very fine saves. The biggest surprise was the spectacle of seeing Hau Yung-sang—normally so fair — indulging in tactics that were unworthy of his ability and his reputation.

Some of his attempts to stop Walmsley were crude in the extreme and one of them very nearly produced a serious injury.

Lau Yee played well but he too was penalised several times for his robust play.

Tong Sheung was the perfect footballer. In defence, in attack and in personal conduct he was delightful . . . a player who wrote his autograph over the game and who would still be called "great" whatever the company in which he played.

Lok Tak-hai is again showing the impetuosity that earlier this season shut him out of Colony representative football. Fong Sai-chow without being polished had a very good game.

The forward line, in spite of scoring six goals, was never really top class. Ho Ying-fun was kept in close check and Chu Wing-keung had neither the speed nor mobility to be a menacing centre-forward.

Ho Cheung-yau on the other hand was always looking for an opening and always trying to make the maximum use of every chance that came along while Yiu Cheuk-yin had a golden spell in the first half which he never quite repeated later on although he still did many brilliant things.

Mok Chun-wah started off well but his finishing was nothing like what we have come to expect from him.... nevertheless his understanding with Yiu Cheuk-yin is just the most entertaining thing in local football.

FINE SAVES

In the Services side Beveridge had many fine saves but he did not get the covering he deserved from the men in front. Nash did not quite reproduce his recent brilliant form and was too often beaten by Mok Chun-wah; Hayes had an easier job against Ho Ying-fun and did well to keep the winger so quiet.

The Services paid a heavy penalty for the misplacing of their wing-halves in the first half. Walters—very left footed—was no more a right half than was Toth a left half, and the return to normalcy at the interval gave the middle line a more balanced look although neither player had a really good game. Toth, potentially a great player, still persists in his fiddling and it very nearly cost his side a couple of late goals. Crompton was full of energy and worked hard and successfully from start to finish.

MacLennan and Clark combined well. The inside man is strong and willing but MacLennan was upset by the hard tackling of Lau Yee. Morris and Murray tried and tried but in the dying minutes both were guilty of selfishness when a pass to an unmarked colleague might have brought the vital goals. Walmsley had an excellent game and ran round Hau Yung-sang both on the inside and the outside almost at will.

VERDICT

A very good game to watch. It was not well handled and both teams suffered in this respect to an almost equal degree....in fact many people left the ground wondering if Monday evening's Council opinions of '50 per cent' and '90 per cent' efficiency were not somewhat generous under-statements.! ! !

TEAMS

Services: Beveridge, Nash, Hayes, Walters, Crompton (Army), Toth, MacLennan, Clark (RAF), Morris, Murray, Walmsley (Army).

HK Chinese: Tam Nai-huen, Hau Yung-sang, Lau Yee, Lok Tak-hai, Fong Sai-chow, Tong Sheung, Ho Ying-fun, Ho Cheung-yau, Chu Wing-keung, Yiu Cheuk-yin, Mok Chun-wah.

Detriot Tigers Score 4-2 Win Over Boston

New York, May 3.

Southpaw Billy Hoeft pitched a six-hitter and Al Kaline slammed a two-run homer today to give the Detroit Tigers a 4-2 triumph over Boston, the sixth straight setback for the Red Sox.

Hoeft, the 22-year-old lefthander who is looking for his first winning season with the Tigers, spotted the Red Sox a two-run lead in the third inning but settled down to blank Boston the rest of the way. Those two runs were the first earned off Hoeft in 23 innings.

Boston's lead, which came on a double by Ted Lepoo, a single by Ivan Delock and another double by Jim Piersall, lasted only until the bottom of the fifth. Detroit got one back in the fourth on a walk to Jim Delsing and Bill Tuttle's two-bagger.

Harvey Kuenn opened the fifth for Detroit with a single and scored ahead of Kaline, who walloped one of Delock's pitches into the left field upper deck for his sixth home run of the season. Kaline's drive chased Delock with the loss.

Detroit picked up its final run in the eighth inning off George Suscegn, Jr., on a walk and singles by Ray Boone and Delsing.

Hoeft walked three batters and struck out six as he posted his third victory against one loss.

Six night games were on tap with New York at Cleveland, Washington at Chicago and Baltimore at Kansas City in the American League, and Chicago at New York, Cincinnati at Philadelphia and Milwaukee at Pittsburgh in the National League.—United Press.

Barnsley Scores 2-0 Victory Over Rochdale

London, May 3.

Barnsley the Third Division North English Football League Club, made sure of promotion to the Second Division next season by beating Rochdale by two goals to zero in Barnsley tonight.

Barnsley, who were relegated from the Second Division two seasons ago, have 63 points after tonight's victory and have still one match to play.

Their nearest rivals, Accrington Stanley, have 59 points and have played the same number of matches.—Reuter.

Tributes are said, and I know in certain circumstances they must be, but I am certain that there will be no dissenting voice if I use the Top Spot on the Sports Parade this week to pay one to the late Bombadier George Crowhurst whose untimely death shocked the Colony's sporting community.

I knew George Crowhurst well and had his confidence in the sphere in which he was probably best known—football. Quietly, and away from the limelight, we several times discussed his play, his hopes, and his progress, for he had set his heart on becoming a league footballer in England and to this end he sought advice and criticism with equal keenness.

He played the game hard but he always tried to play it fair and as far as I know there is not a player who ever had cause to complain that his tactics were anything but legitimate.

I remember two incidents that were typical of him as a player. The first happened just after he had been told that he had been selected to play for tht Army's first team and he was feeling very nervous indeed. He worried even more when he found that the game was against Kitchee under floodlights at the Club Stadium....and with an undersize ball!!

The match was in aid of the Miniature Football Association and he asked Granger, Frazer and Wells to keep shouting at him from the start so that he would forget about his nerves.

The second one was very different and happened after he had won a regular place for himself in the senior side. The Army was playing well when they went over to Caroline Hill to play their return league match with South China.

The Chinese boys were particularly anxious to avenge their earlier 2-1 defeat at the Club Stadium and sailed into the solders with a fury that left even the most experienced players gasping. It is history how that South China won by five goals to one and that Mok Chun-wah and Yiu Cheuk-yin gave Crowhurst, who was at right-half, a real roasting. As they went into the dressing room at the end Frazer said to Crowhurst by way of consolation "Don't worry too much about it, George. . . ."

Crowhurst's reply was typical. He said "Worry....not on your life. If I haven't learned something today then I doubt if I ever will."

HONEST SPORTSMAN

Crowhurst's death removes a fine and honest sportsman from the arena but it leaves a memory that is nothing but pleasant. Our loss cannot however compare with that suffered by his family so many miles away and to them, and to his wide circle of intimate friends, we offer our sincere sympathy. We were proud to have had him in our midst.

• • •

With five of the ten Colony Boxing Championships titles now gracing the shoulders of Army boxers we can take a lot of satisfaction from the first post-war tournament organised by the Hongkong Amateur Boxing Association.

Apart from their ability and their willingness to make a fight of it, our representatives showed sportsmanship of the highest order and neither ring incident or adverse verdict upset that spirit. Special praise in this direction must go to new Welterweight Champion Beeston of the Northamptons.

In the final Beeston was several times hit after the 'break' call by an opponent who was so keyed up in his desire to do well that the soldier might have been pardoned a show of resentment, but be it to his credit that his ready smile won him as many ringside friends as his educated gloves won him points.

The Championships were exceptionally well run especially when one realises all the difficulties that confronted the organizers. SMI Phillips did yeoman service in and out of the ring and together with his Royal Navy counterpart CPO Jim Herrett rendered able assistance to the HKABA—service that was gladly received and generously acknowledged by the officials of the Association.

EXEMPLARY CONDUCT

To our five Colony Champions, Howard, Postle, Beeston, Carey and Hilton go our congratulations; to Legerton goes our sympathy for his unfortunate injury; to Jones goes our praise for his exemplary conduct when the decision went against him in his tremendous tussle with Henry Wong. Never by hint or headshake did he betray his disappointment and his quickly extended hand to Wong was the hallmark of a true sportsman.

In spite of all the thrills of the finals my own personal memory of the 1955 championship series will centre round the truly astonishing performance of Oliver at the Missions to Seamen in the semi-final of the light-heavyweights when he was beaten by sailor Sadd. In many years of watching boxing I don't think I have ever been witness to a greater display of courage than Oliver put up on this occasion, and what is more I don't ever want to see a better one. If the HKABA awarded a Medalion of Merit in addition to its championship prizes I am certain that Oliver would have won it hands down.

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With the Colony Fencing Championships now in progress my next item is indeed a topical one. In response to requests here are full particulars of the various tournaments in the Army's 1955 fencing season.

FARELF Team Championships. (a) Light Weapons.—Hongkong Phase. Winners Foil, Epee and Sabre . . . 6 HEC. (b) FARELF Phase.

Winners—Foil, Epee and Sabre . . . HQ Singapore Base District. Runners up—do . . . 1 Bn. Kings Own. (Representing Hongkong).

In the Bayonet Fencing Competition Command Pay Office won the Hongkong Phase and went to Singapore for the FARELF Championships. In the semi-final they beat 27 Coy. RASC who represented Malaya but in the final they were beaten by HQ Singapore Base District representing Singapore.

The Hongkong Phase of the Individual Championships saw Major G. Brewer, RAEC win the Foil, Epee and Sabre titles.

Captain E. Eberhardie of the Royal Norfolks (HQLF) won the Bayonet competition.

In the FARELF Phase Major Brewer was placed 1st in Sabre; 2nd in Epee and 3rd in Foil. He also competed in the Bayonet and was placed 7th Sgt. Day was placed 6th in Foil, Epee and Sabre and 2nd in the Bayonet.

Major Brewer was placed 2nd in the FARELF Champion-at-Arms with 23 points to his credit and Sgt. Day took 4th place with a total of 16 points.

Thus a very successful season comes to an end but with the Army well represented in the current Colony Championships there is every hope that still further honours will be added to the list, in fact Major Brewer has already won the Colony Epee title.

• • •

Last week I mentioned that, with a very comprehensive swimming and Water Polo season almost upon us, there was a pressing need for more qualified officials. This applied (particularly) to water polo but so far very few names have been received for the proposed courses.

This is quite surprising as there are excellent facilities in the Colony for qualified men to practice their art.

The latest news on the subject is that, provided sufficient names are forthcoming, the SOPT will run courses at both Sek Kong and Victoria pools.

• • •

And now to finish here is a brief look into the future as far as the FARELF Championships are concerned. According to the latest available information the Swimming and Water Polo Championships will again be held at Singapore early in October. The arrangements look like providing a real treat for hockey enthusiasts however for if present plans work out both Malaya and Singapore will be visiting us in February 1956.

Our rugby and boxing fraternities will have to do a spot of travelling this year as the rugby final is scheduled for either Singapore or Malaya and the FARELF boxing titles will once again be decided at Singapore.

Our Basketball Champions will also have to travel but they will do so at the special request of the authorities in Singapore where it is felt that the excellent standard of our play will help to improve the general quality of the game in both Singapore and Malaya. The FARELF final will probably be staged in February.

Special Swimming Pool For Olympic Games

Melbourne, May 3.

A futuristic swimming pool specially designed and built for the 1956 Olympic Games will be one of the special attractions for visiting competitors and spectators next year.

The pool, still under construction in one corner of the Olympic Park a few hundred yards from the main stadium, will cost more than A£400,000 when completed.

The radical design of the pool has already excited much attention from overseas architects. It will be one of the few pre-stressed steel structures in the world. The general effect will be all the more amazing because the long sides of the structure will have no visible means of support from below.

William Irwin, a youngish, fair-haired engineer who designed the pool, explains that the project has been called a "sky hook's job". "The roof holds it up," said Irwin.

The roof is supported by pre-stressed steel girders shooting out at angles from concrete blocks embedded 30 feet down to rock level. Then, by means of cables, the roof supports the rest of the structure, including the pool and seating accommodation.

Irwin has no doubts about the efficiency of his design. A model of the structure was exhaustively tested in a wind-tunnel, and it withstood all the stresses likely to be encountered...and more. This included extraordinary circumstances such as all the spectators sitting on one side of the pool, and standing suddenly when a national anthem is played.

BRILLIANT AND ORIGINAL

Professor A. J. Francis, professor of civil engineering at Melbourne University, described the structural design of the pool as "brilliant and original." It will be an "open" closed pool. Swimmers and spectators will be able to walk straight out from their seats on to lawns and into gardens on the banks of the Yarra River nearby.

The Games Organising Committee conducted a special nationwide contest fir a suitable design for the new pool. Irwin's design was picked from 72 entries submitted by architects all over Australia.

The winning design was really a joint effort by Irwin and a group of four young architects. Irwin, who graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1949, co-operated with John Murphy and his wife Phyllis, who conducts a joint architects' office. The two others on the team were architects Peter McIntyre and Kevin Borland.

The Olympic pool is located just under a mile from the centre of the city. The building will be 60 feet high, 235 feet long and 240 feet wide. The ground floor area will total 37,000 square feet.

With the foundations practically finished at the beginning of April, engineers working on the pool started on the first of 14 bays to accommodate a total of 5,500 spectators.

The International Olympic Committee president, Avery Brundage, who came to Australia from Chicago for an on-the-spot look at Australia's progress for the big event, visited the site of the new pool.

Olympic officials told Mr Brundage the pool was due for completion by the end of June 1956 — four months before the Games begin on November 22.—United Press.

Cockell-Marciano To Attend Rules Briefing

San Francisco, May 3.

Don Cockell, the British Heavyweight Champion, and Rocky Marciano, whom he meets for the World title on May 16, have been invited to attend a "schooling session" on rules next Monday.

The California Athletic Commission are arranging for the boxers and their managers to meet following a request by Mr John Simpson, Cockell's manager, that there should be clarification of certain rules.

An official said: "We want it to be a clean fight and we do not want any misunderstandings or alibis after it is over."

One point which is expected to be emphasised is that under State rules a fighter can neither win nor lose on a low blow.—Reuter.

Your last few chances for pominating Hongkong's Footballer Of The Year

Fill in coupon below and send it in not later than SATURDAY, MAY 7th

Nominate YOUR

Hongkong Footballer Of The Year

Members of the public are invited to nominate whom they consider to be Hongkong's Footballer of the Year for the current season.

It is a popularity poll organised by the China Mail, and nomination coupons will be received until the closing date to be announced later.

The two qualifications for nomination are:

(1) Footballing prowess.

(2) Sportsmanship on the field of play.

Nominations should be addressed to The Editor, China Mail, Wyndham Street, Hongkong.

To The Editor, China Mail.

My nomination for Hongkong's Footballer of the Year, taking into regard his playing ability and his sportsmanship on the field of play is .....

of the ..... Club.

(Signed) .....

Sports Diary

TODAY

Tennis

Men's "A" Div.: CRC v UC; SCAA v HKCC.

Ladies "B" Div.: LRC (1) v KGV; CCC v LRC (2); HKU v SCAA; KCC v CRC.

TOMORROW

Soccer

Exhibition: Veterans of Australia Tours v REME (CH) 7.15 p.m.

Div. 2: Runners-up play-off (Club) 6 p.m.

Tennis

Men's "B" Div.: KCC v CCC (1); KTGCA v HKU; HKCC v CRC; Recreio v RAF; LRC v CCC (3); CCSRC v SCAA.

Ladies "A" Div.: LRC v USRC (1); Recreio v USRC (3).

FRIDAY

Meeting

HKAAA 50th Executive Committee Meeting, Education Dept. 8.15 p.m.

Fencing

Colony Senior Foil Championships, European YMCA 6 p.m.

Hockey

Annual Dinner-Dance at Peninsula Hotel commencing at 8 p.m.

HOME RUGGER

London, May 3.

Results of Rugby League matches played this evening were:

R. Hornets	11	Liverpool C.	9
Keighley	8	Castleford	7

—China Mail Special.

LAWN BOWLS TEAMS

The following are club selections for the opening matches of the Lawn Bowls League which commences this Saturday:

KBGC v. PRC at KBGC at 4 p.m.:—L. Gadd, F. C. Gasson, T. Kavanagh, A. Harvey (S); E. J. Liddell, F. Howarth, C. Rounsefell, E. Purvis (S); J. Tindall, S. Howarth, P. Hughes, J. McKelvie (S).

KBGC v. KCC at KBGC at 4 p.m.:—V. Bond, C. Greaves, H. A. Scott, A. Hutton (S); L. W. Gordon, S. Bicheno, S. Tremlett, L. F. Cosgrove (S); W. Thomas, A. D. McCracken, J. McLelland, C. E. Terry (S).

Reserves:—A. McCorkindale, J. W. Bellamy.

Club de Recreio

Recreio "Blues" v Recreio "Whites" at Recreio, 4.30 p.m.:

Blues:—R. F. Luz (skip), J. A. Luz, S. E. Souza, A. P. Pereira; J. F. V. Ribeiro (skip), C. E. Passos, C. C. Pereira, L. M. Rodrigues; J. E. Noronha (skip), C. E. Roza Pereira, A. M. Souza, A. A. G. Silva.

Whites:—A. A. Remedios (skip), H. J. Noronha, A. A. Guterres, M. Roza Pereira; C. A. Danenberg (skip), G. A. Noronha, F. G. Luz, A. Braga; A. A. Lopes (skip), B. F. Marques, S. Rivero, J. M. Gutierrez.

KCC

Second Division (Home) v Kowloon Dock at 4 p.m.:—W. G. Dooley, E. P. White, R. S. Capell, M. J. Divecha (Skip); S. V. Doe, L. Bones, H. Phoenix, W. J. Howard (Skip); S. A. Gray, C. W. Lam, J. F. da Silva, G. Lee (Skip).

Third Division (Away) v KBGC at 4 p.m.:—L. Naylon, W. S. Edwards, J. Carvalho, S. Ramchand (Skip); W. F. Dudman, D. Taylor, C. S. Ladd, C. T. Champelovier (Skip); A. Liang, A. C. Tribble, A. W. Branson, H. A. Triggs (Skip).

Note:—The First Division team has a bye, but there will be a practice roll-up starting at 4.15 p.m. sharp.

Until further notice practice games on Sundays will start at 3.30 p.m. sharp, and all those who wish to take part should be on the green not later than that time.

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

"LYCAON"

Damaged cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs Paulsen & Bayes-Davy at Holt's Wharf from 10 a.m. on May 5 and 6, 1955, and consignees are requested to have their representatives present during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.

Hongkong, May 3, 1955.

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Special Announcements and Classified Advertisements as usual.

Russia Improves News Facilities

WESTERN TREATMENT

By Don Dallas

London, May 3.

Soviet news treatment is getting a "Western" streamlined look.

While Russia politically has been in a state of flux and transition since Stalin died, one firm change has been established in the field of news. Russia is reporting the world news more speedily and commenting on it more quickly.

Broadly speaking, Russia is also reporting the news a trifle less tendentiously than in Stalin's days.

REFLECT TREND

Soviet newspapers reflect the trend. By Western standards they remain dull and heavily political. But to the Russian man in the street they present a cleaner picture of the non-Communist world that Stalin allowed them to receive.

While he lived, Stalin dominated the Soviet newspapers. Some individual issues of Pravda, the Communist party newspaper, have been known to mention Stalin's name more than 100 times. No main editorial in Pravda or Izvestia, the Soviet Government newspaper, was complete without one or more quotations from Stalin.

Today, Stalin is mentioned from time to time in a historical or political context and sometimes with a quotation from him to justify current policy.

But no contemporary leader—not even Nikita S. Khrushchev, the powerful First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, and certainly not Premier Nikolai Bulganin — dominates the Soviet Press today.

Soviet newspapers remain "ideological"—but to a somewhat lesser degree than they were under Stalin.

Even the make-up of some newspapers has improved and the most striking change has been in the more streamlined layout of the weekly magazines like Ogonyok (Russia's nearest equivalent to the glossy American magazine) and Krokodil, the political-humorous journal.

STUDY NEWS

The Kremlin has no such title as Chief Public Relations Officer. Nevertheless, some top Soviet official appears to be at work studying the best strategic times for the release of news to the West and the world at large.

Thus, editorial writers and propagandists in Russia appear today to have a greater scope for individual initiative within the framework of accepted Soviet policy.

For most of the postwar era, Stalin and the Kremlin officials worked throughout half the night. Foreign correspondents in Moscow slept—and read the news in Pravda and Izvestia the next morning.

Today, the Kremlin officials work "office hours"—and the foreign correspondents stay up all night.

In fact, the picture started changing in the last eight months of Stalin's life. Until the latter part of 1952, Western correspondents in Moscow had been unable to get copies of the Soviet newspapers until they were on sale in the Moscow streets.

Finally agreement was reached whereby they secured advance copies of Pravda and Izvestia, which became available any time from midnight Moscow time.

This arrangement meant that news was often available to them before it was broadcast by Moscow radio. Under the previous system, Moscow radio or Tass, the Soviet official news agency, had always "broken" the big news.

DAY WORK ORDERED

When Georgi Malenkov took over as Premier on Stalin's death, one of his first innovations was to order all Government offices and departments back from night to day work.

But of course, the Soviet newspaper, news agency and radio men still worked at night: so did the Western newsmen.

Today's Press release arrangements seem designed to ensure the best possible Press for Russia's views all round the globe.

The midnight Moscow time release suits newspapers in the United States and Western European (morning newspapers) and the Far East (evening newspapers).

But time and again within the past few months the Soviet Press chiefs have been speeding up news releases even further.

Since Marshal Bulganin took over as Premier in February this year, there have been a series of major news releases by Moscow Radio or Tass at around nine p.m. Moscow time (1800 GMT).

And on this new deal, Moscow radio is again beating the Western Press corps in Moscow. —China Mail Special.

Grand Master Elected

The highest officers of the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Malta, who have come from all parts of the world, gathered in their historic Villa Magistrale, built on the Aventine Hill, overlooking Rome, to elect the new head of their order. Wearing their colourful full dress uniform the Knights first attended Mass in their celebrated Saint Sabina Chapel, and then retired to the great room in the Villa Magistrale for their secret conclave. The long delayed election was due to a conflict between the knights and the Holy See, which was settled following a Special Cardinals committee, who were able to solve the problems. The newly elected head of the Order is the Marquis Ernesto Paterno Castillo di Careses.

Picture shows: the scene in the election room of the Villa Magistrale prior to the voting. (Left to right) Lieut Col Guy Elwes (Great Britain); Prince Guy de Polignac (France); and Count das Alcacovas (Portugal). — Express Photo.

"Hams" Were Australia's Flood Heroes

DIRECTED AID AS WATER WASHED THEIR BOOTS

Sydney, May 3.

"Ham" (amateur) radiomen, crouching for hours over their heated sets while floods threatened their homes and their lives, were the heroes of the February New South Wales flood disaster.

As the brown waters engulfed thousands of miles of the State, the amateur operators remained on the air. Their laconic messages directed rescuers to the helpless and brought food to the hungry.

The amateurs' emergency network, comprising about 150 stations in New South Wales and the neighbouring States of Queensland and Victoria, came on the air immediately the waters cut Post Office telephone lines and washed out roads and railways.

LINK OPEN

For about a week from February 24, the amateur operators kept open the only communications link between some 50 flood-isolated towns and the rest of New South Wales.

A typical operator was Mr J. H. Wall, whose station VK2JC raises a cluster of aerials above the small western New South Wales town of Narrabri.

When the usually - placid Namoi River became overnight a rampaging flood, VK2JC went on the air with the story of the town's battle for survival.

Mr Wall sent messages telling how the waters were rising round the town and where the worst danger spots were. His radio directed rescuers and relief workers to the worst-pressed areas.

Then, on the night of February 24, Mr Wall called the controller to report that the town had lost its fight. He told how water was lapping through the floor of his shack, adding that it would be only a matter of minutes before the power would fail.

As he was finishing his message, his station went off the air.

Another group of amateurs manned station VK2NX in the Hunter Valley and for 48 hours their home-made radio was a key link in the direction of helicopter and boat rescues which saved many lives.

The overworked set finally broke down, but its operators patched it up and were on the air again within a day with fresh calls for help.

ACCORDING TO PLAN

The New South Wales emergency radio network came on to the air according to a plan which the Wireless Institute of Australia had drawn up in preparation for a national emergency.

At Newcastle, nearest city to the flood-devastated Hunter Valley, the Government Post Office cleared a special room for the handling of the messages from amateurs.

The network relayed complete information on the varying picture of the floods to the rescue controllers in the various districts, enabling them to send servicemen, police or surfboat crews where they were most wanted and to order drops of supplies from the air where the need was greatest.

BROUGHT TO NOTICE

This work done by the "hams" in this emergency has brought the need for adequate emergency links to the public notice and the Post Office has started preparing plans for its own flood radio network.

The Postmaster General, Mr Hubert Anthony, was one of the first official visitors to the flood-devastated towns and he brought back the promise of an immediate investigation.

He said that experience during the floods showed that two-way radio links between the most important centres were a "vital necessity" over the whole of the New South Wales-Queensland river system, where the danger of flooding is always very real.

Australia's "hams" hope that the floods will have demonstrated to the Government radio control officers the value of encouraging amateur transmissions. For years, amateur radio-men have claimed that restrictions on broadcasting in Australia are more irksome than in any other country in the democratic world.

They complain that the Post Office is "tight" with the issue of frequencies for amateurs and also keeps the power of Australian stations well below the output which amateurs in Britain, Canada and the United States are allowed to use. There are also severe restrictions on the carriage of messages over the amateur transmitters. Feeling ran high during the flood emergency when the Post Office reminded the operators of these restrictions.

An order went out saying that the amateurs must not accept even urgent private messages which the Post Office could not transmit unless the senders of the messages handed them in at Post Offices and paid the usual Post Office fees.

OFFICIAL REPLY

The official reply to this was given by the Deputy Director - General Post and Telegraphs for Victoria, Mr P. Van Thoff, who explained: "In an emergency we expect the amateurs to make their facilities available to the authorities controlling the emergency.

"If they were to take private messages this could easily hold up urgent police and other messages to the detriment of the whole work. The work which the amateurs do in times of emergency is magnificent, but after careful thought the regulation was framed in the public interest."—China Mail Special.

Three Levels For Cities Of Future

London, May 3.

A London architect said yesterday that cities of the future should be built on three levels with essential industries buried underground far beneath them.

Mr Brian Anstey told the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors his ideal city of the future would be built on three levels. They would be:

- Level 1. Underground, served by its own road and rail system and containing air conditioned store-houses and factories, robot fed and watched.
- Level 2. A hundred feet above the ground a "grove of mansions" widely spaced and built of aluminium and glass to house offices, apartment houses and light industries.
- Level 3—A garden level—United Press.

FRANCE TO BUILD A-PLANTS

Strasbourg, May 3.

France's Finance Minister Pierre Pflimlin expressed the hope today that his country would soon have atomic power plants and atomic-propelled ships at her disposal.

But, said the Minister in an interview to the Strasbourg Daily, Le Nouvel Alsacien, "I would not want us to manufacture atomic bombs."

He stressed France's determination to forge ahead in the development of atomic energy for peaceful uses.

He believed that because of France's important scientific advance close co-operation in the research field and the establishment of a joint European pooling of resources would "help us reach first place."—France-Presse.

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

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NOTICE TO PASSENGERS

SAILS: Thursday, 5th May at 12.00 Noon for the UNITED KINGDOM via Straits, Colombo, Bombay, Aden and Port Said.

BAGGAGE: Passengers are requested to send ALL BAGGAGE to the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf Co.'s Godown at No. 2 GATE, CANTON ROAD ENTRANCE, by Noon on Wednesday, 4th May.

SPECIAL NOTE: With the exception of hand packages carried by passengers themselves, ALL BAGGAGE must pass through the Wharf Co.'s Godown for loading on board by ship's slings only.

EMBARKATION: Passengers should embark between 9.30 and 11.00 a.m. on Thursday, 5th May, 1955.

SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

SOVIET GOLD SALES RESUMED

London Operators Puzzled By Latest Offerings

HIGH PRIORITY INDUSTRY

By PAUL EINZIG

London, May 3.

Since the second half of March Soviet gold and silver reappeared in the London market. The amounts sold appear to have been moderate—their total was estimated at £2,000,000 gold and £750,000 silver by the middle of April — and selling was gradual. This, together with the London newspaper strike, explains why the transactions escaped publicity for several weeks.

The resumption of Russian sales of gold, even on a small scale, would have attracted much attention in the London financial press in normal conditions.

It will be remembered that, when in 1953 the Soviet Government began to sell precious metals in London and other Western markets, these operations aroused worldwide interest. Admittedly, the sales were then on a much larger scale. But then there is no means of knowing whether the present tentative operations will not prove to be the beginning of a long series of sales the total of which might well prove to be an impressive figure.

POPULAR IMAGINATION

Gold transactions have always appealed to popular imagination, largely because they are often surrounded by an atmosphere of mystery. This atmosphere is particularly noticeable in the case of gold sales by the Soviet Union. There have never been any official statistics about the size of the Soviet gold reserve or the amount of the gold output in the USSR. It is therefore impossible to form an opinion about the Soviet Government's capacity to unload gold in Western markets if it wishes to do so.

When in 1953 Russian gold made its first appearance in London, Paris, Switzerland and other bullion markets, the effect of relatively small sales was that the premium of the free market price of gold over the official American price of $35 per ounce disappeared. While until then there was much speculation about the possibility of an increase of the official American gold price, the appearance of the Soviet Government as a seller of gold ruled out the possibility of such an increase, since it would have meant a free gift of additional dollars to the Communist bloc.

ABSENT FOR YEAR

For well over a year Russian gold bars stamped with hammer and sickle were absent from the market. Their reappearance may possibly link up with the decision of the Khrushchev regime to reverse Malenkov's policy of producing more consumer goods and less heavy industrial equipment. Since less goods will be produced for the consumer within the Soviet Union, perhaps the Soviet Government wants to make good part of the deficiency by increasing its imports of consumer goods. For that purpose more foreign currency would be needed, and the simplest way of securing it is through the sale of precious metals for which there is always a ready market. The alternative would be an export drive, which might be a difficult and slow process. Besides, an increase of exports would reduce the volume of goods available for the consumer. It is therefore more convenient to draw on the gold and silver reserve.

ANOTHER REASON

Another possible explanation is that sterling and other currencies may be needed for the import of strategic raw materials for stockpiling purposes. It is expected that, should the conclusion of a Peace Treaty with Austria be followed by other conciliatory gestures, the ban on the export of strategic materials and manufactures to Russia would be relaxed. As the Soviet Government's holdings of foreign currencies are believed to be low, possibly it may wish to replenish them in anticipation of purchases of such goods.

There can be no doubt that the Soviet Government can well afford to sell large quantities of gold. Even in the complete absence of information about the size of its gold reserve, it is generally assumed to be very large.

SUBSTANTIAL OUTPUT

The current output of gold must be also substantial, because of the high priority given by the Soviet Government to gold mining.

When in September Mr F. J. Erroll, a Conservative Member of Parliament, paid a visit to the Sverdlovsk goldfields, he was very much impressed by the up to date character of the equipment and the evidence of a drive to increase the output.

Mr Erroll is an engineer and a director of a gold mining company, so that he was in a position to judge.

What is important from the point of view of the resumption of Russian gold exports is that, according to Mr Erroll, the gold production drive was evidently started long before Stalin's death—it takes years to sink a shaft—at a time when the official policy aimed at increasing the production of industrial equipment while keeping low the production of consumer goods. This means that gold mining was given a high priority long before the advent of the Malenkov regime.

REVERSED POLICY

It seems reasonable to suppose, therefore, that, even though the Khrushchev regime has now reverted to the Stalin policy of giving high priority to the production of industrial equipment, gold mining will continue to enjoy high priority. After all, gold can be used for increasing the imports of industrial equipment or industrial raw materials as well as of food and other consumer goods. This must have been one of the reasons why the Stalin regime favoured the employment of much needed productive capacity for the sinking of shafts at Sverdlovsk and elsewhere, even if this diverted productive capacity from the production of arms and from the speeding up of industrialisation.

There can be little doubt that political motives must have played some part in the decision to give gold mining a high priority.

As a matter of prestige, it may be the ambition of the Soviet Government to accumulate a gold reserve that bears comparison with the gold reserve of the United States. Such a gold reserve would confer on Soviet Russia power as well as prestige. This consideration may perhaps explain why the Soviet Government preferred for a long time to accumulate the gold output rather than export it. It would be interesting to know why the Kremlin should have decided that the time has now come for realising some of its gold hoard.

—(London Express Service)

PENSIONERS HOUSING PROJECT

San Francisco, May 3.

San Francisco is planning a 2,500-000-dollar (about £840,000) housing project for the exclusive use of its pensioned and aged citizens.

Sponsored by the San Francisco Housing Authority, a joint local and Federal Government enterprise, flats will be rented at prices which the aged pensioners can afford.

It will be operated according to private industry real estate methods, not like an almshouse.

This specially designed housing estate, which will include innovations of architectural design to make living easier for the no longer spry tenants, will be the first of its type in the nation.

It will be situated in the area which includes the greatest concentration of old peolpe in San Francisco, and will provide not only modern living quarters but also municipally subsidised recreational facilities.

2 PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

Planners envisage 216 flats in the estate which will include two principal buildings, each 12 floors high, grouped about a well laid-out recreational area so placed as to get the maximum sunlight during daylight hours.

Instead of stairways, in addition to lifts there will be floor to floor ramps, to ease the strain on elderly legs. The halls will be extra wide to permit the unimpeded passage of wheel chairs, and bath rooms will be fitted with extra handle bars for the convenience of the aged tenants. Each floor will have a series of sun decks.

Forty of the flats will be designed with twin bed bedrooms. Mr E.N. Ayer, Chairman of the Housing Authority, who is sponsoring the estate explained: "The Authority's most pressing problem now is to provide special housing for the senior citizens. They are congregated thickly in the very districts most open to urban renewal and redevelopment."

Those urban areas of San Francisco where most old people live are crowded with buildings in slum condition, but with cheap rents, which attract the pensioners.

The California old age pension system, which is financed in part by federal grants, allows to each person of 65 years or over and without sufficient private means to maintain a minimum standard of living, 80 dollars (about £17) a month.

NET INCOME

To this sum are added such charges as extraordinary medical costs. Any income which the individual may have is, however, deducted.

If the pensioner's bill is 20 dollars (about £7) a month, and his private income gives him a dollar a day, he receives a net income of 70 dollars a month from the state.

Out of this, he has to pay for all his needs, housing, food, clothing, and recreation—if any. None of the sum is "earmarked" for rent or clothing. The individual is permitted to decide how he will spend the money.

The Housing Authority will establish a basic rent of one-fifth of the individual's income or a minimum of 25 dollars a month. For that sum, an old man and his wife may live in a modern three-room flat, including bedroom, living room, kitchen and bath. The rent will include the cost of all utilities and sanitary services.

The establishment of minimum rent charges is in keeping with the Authority's basic mission of providing modern living quarters for individuals in low income brackets.

Now renting more than 10,000 units to wage earners, the Authority limits tenancy to those earning a minimum sum per month. If the wage earner's income increases, he is forced to move and make way for an individual or family whose income remains static in the lower brackets.

15,000 PENSIONERS

There is little doubt that the Authority will have more applicants for accommodation than space available. The number of old age pensioners in San Francisco is almost 15,000, the highest in northern California.

Any one of them would be willing to trade their broken-down quarters in slum buildings, costing an average of 30 dollars (over £10) a month, for living space in the new modern state planned here.—China Mail Special.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

Late Sell-off Cuts $1 Billion

New York, May 3.

A short, sharp sell-off late in the session cut more than $1,000,000,000 from stock market valuations today, rolling prices back to mid-April levels.

The selling climaxed a day of routine profit-taking which had failed to uncover any new demand. It knocked prices down 5 points at the extreme as reporting tickers fell as much as four minutes behind transactions.

Closings were well below yesterday, with 843 issues lower out of a total 1,239 traded.

Market men called the action technical and in line with expected market activity after the recent move to new bull highs.

Hardest hit were recent favourites in the rails, steels, aircrafts and special issues.

For industrials, the decline amounted to 3.52 points on average. For rails, it was an even sharper loss—2.78 points on average, widest decline for the group since March 14. Utilities dipped 0.18.

SANTA FE DOWN

Weighing heavily on the rail average was a drop of more than 4 points in Santa Fe.

Bethlehem Steel, selling ex-rights, was hard hit in the industrials, closing nearly 3 points lower.

Special issues—many of them recent strong features—were the widest losers. General Dynamics fell 3⅝, Western Union 2¾.

Aircrafts as a group were hard hit, Boeing, Bendix and United Aircraft were off around 2 points.

Reynolds fell 4 points in the metals.

Trading at a slow pace most of the session, was stepped up on the decline and total turnover amounted to 2,630,000 shares, compared with 2,220,000 yesterday.

The New York Stock Exchange bond volume was $4,205,000.

The American Stock Exchange volume was 730,000 shares.

Dow-Jones closing averages were as follows:

30 industrials	422.78
20 rails	157.89
15 utilities	64.68
65 stocks	158.47
40 bonds	99.81
Comm. future price index	154.03

YESTERDAY'S PRICES

Alden Inc. Acy.	$ 22¾
Allied Chemicals	99¼
Allis Chalmers	76½
American Airline	26⅞
American Metal	53
American Smelting	47⅞
American Tel & Tel	182¾
American Tobacco "B"	72¼
Anaconda Copper	59⅞
Armco Steel	77⅝
Armour	15⅜
Balwin-Lima-Hamilton	10½
Baltimore & Ohio	44⅛
Bendix Aviation Corp.	53⅜
Benguet Cons.	1⅛
Bethlehem Steel	122ex-rts
Boeing Airplane	61
Canadian Pacific Railway	31⅛
Case (J. I.) Co.	16⅝
Chrysler Motors	70⅝
Commercial Credit	49⅞
Commonwealth Elec.	40¼
Consolidated Edison	49⅝
Continental Steel	30
Corn Products	89¾
Crane Co.	43¾
Cuban American Sugar	17⅝
Curtis Wright	20⅛
Dupont de Nemours	183¼
Eastman Kodak	78⅜
General Electric	51¾
General Foods	34½
General Motors	97⅜
Gillette Safety Razor	67
Goodrich (B. F.) Co.	64
Goodyear Tire & Rubber	57
Homstake Mining Co.	40⅝
International Business Machines	419
International Harvester	37½
International Nickel	64
International Tel & Tel	26⅛
*subject to confirmation.	
Johns-Manville Co.	89¾
Kennecott Copper	104¼
Lockheed Aircraft	45⅝
Leows Incorp.	20¼
Lone Star Cement Co.	59¼
Minnesota Mining	93
Montgomery Ward	74⅝
National Cash Register "A"	43
National Distillers	20⅝
National Lead	68
New York Central	40¼
Otis Elevators	64⅞
Pacific Gas & Electric	47½
Pacific Western Oil	30¾
Pan American Airways	18⅜
Paramount Pictures	39¾
Philips Petroleum	74xd.
Pittsburgh Plate Glass	73½
Radio Corporation	42⅞
Reo Motors	14⅝
Republic Steel	54½
Shell Oil Co.	61
Sinclair Oil	54xd.
Socony Vacuum	53⅝
Southern Railway (Com.)	92
Standard Brands	29⅛
Standard Oil of California	79
Standard Oil of Indiana	44½
Standard Oil of New Jersey	115½
Stokley-Van Camp	17¾
Studebaker-Packard Corp.	12½
Swift & Co.	51⅛
Texas Co.	83½xd.
Union Carbide	90¼
Union Pacific Railway	173
United Gas, Imp	70⅝
U.S. Gypsum	201
U.S. Line Co.	23
U.S. Rubber	45¾
United States Smelting	50
U.S. Steel	89
Warner Bros.	19
Westinghouse Electric	72½
Woolworth	48⅜

—United Press.

World Cotton Markets

New York, May 3.

Cotton traders today found the line of least resistance on the upside.

In moderately active dealings, gains ranged up to around $1.50 a bale with the nearby May delivery getting up the 34 cent line, the highest price in almost two months.

Day traders realising pared extreme gains at the close but the list still finished up 10 to 25 points. The market opened up 9 to off 1 point. New Orleans closed up 11 to 13 points.

Factors generating the price-lifting power included: 1. Issuance of only one May delivery notice; 2. Strength of Liverpool and attendant foreign buying here; 3. anticipated large-sized purchase of low-grade cotton for Korea and Spain; 4. A resultant interest in ownership of the certificated stock; 5. Expectations for an early all-round pick-up in export buying.

Trading volumes and open interests in the Exchange today were:

Month	Volume	Open interest
May	9,800	120,300
July	35,800	873,700
Oct.	10,600	452,800
Dec.	6,900	377,800
Mar.	8,700	198,500
May	6,900	212,900
July	1,800	100,300
Total	80,500	2,337,300 bales

NEW YORK

Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot	33.65
May	33.94
July	34.00-02
Oct.	34.07
Dec.	34.11
Mar.	34.28-29
May	34.28-29
July	33.58

NEW ORLEANS

Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot	34.70
May	33.95
July	33.97-98
Oct.	34.03
Dec.	34.08-09
Mar.	34.09-10
May	34.16
July	33.58

LIVERPOOL

Future closings, American cotton middling, in pence per lb. were as follows:

May/June	31.51
July/August	31.56
October/November	29.80
December/January	29.80
March/April	29.66

SAO PAULO

Future closings, in cruzeiros per kilo were as follows:

May	29.60
July	30.70
October	32.30
December	33.30
March	33.75

In the United States, the average price of 15/16 middling at ten designated spot markets was 33.79 cents. Sales at these centres totalled 8,069 bales.—United Press.

New York Foreign Exchange

New York, May 3.

Canada	$1.01-9/32
England 60-day futures	2.75¾
Belgium	.0190¾
Canadian dollar rates:	buyers sellers
Spot: close	1.01¼ 1.01-9/32
high	1.01¼ 1.01-9/32
low	1.01⅛ 1.01⅛
Future: 30-day	1.01¼ 1.01-9/32
90-day	1.01¼ 1.01-9/32
6-month	1.01½ 1.01-9/32

—United Press.

New York Sugar Market

New York, May 3.

World No. 4 sugar futures closed unchanged to 2 points lower with sales of 98 contracts.

Buyers backed away and realising increased in both contracts following earlier firmness in sympathy with the raw situation.

Domestic No. 6 sugar futures closed 3 points lower to 4 points higher with sales of 37 contracts.

Future closings were:

Contract No. 4 (world)	
July	3.34
Sept.	3.35
Mar.	3.29
May	3.29
July	3.29
Sept.	3.29
Contract No. 6	
Spot (cents per lb. fob Cuba)	3.33
July	5.48
Sept	5.59
Nov.	5.60
Mar.	5.41
May	5.44
Spot (cents per lb. cif NY ex-duty)	5.36

—United Press.

UK Reserves Up $19 Million

London, May 3.

Britain's gold and dollar reserves rose by $19 million during April and stood at $2,686 million on April 30, the Treasury announced today.

Defence aid received from the United States during the month was estimated at $17 million.

In April, $13 million were received in gold or dollars from the European Payments Union for March and $2 million were paid to creditors of the Union in bilateral settlements.

On the provisional figures for the month, the United Kingdom had a surplus of £22 million with the European Payments Union. This will be settled in May, 50 per cent in gold or dollars and 50 per cent by reduction of Britain's debt to the Union.—China Mail Special.

Singapore Stock Market

Singapore, May 4.

Brokers today quoted the following stock prices:

	Opening
British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate	30/dd
Consolidated Tin Smelters Ord.	30/3d
Fraser & Neave Ltd. Ord.	$1.87
Fraser & Neave Ltd. 7½% cum. pref	$0.60
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp.	$820
Malayan Breweries	$3.75
Raffles Hotel	$2.50
Singapore Cold Storage	$1.70
South British Insurance Co. Ltd.	$26.00
Straits Trading	$23.25*
Straits Steamship	$14.00
United Engineers Ord.	$11.00
Wearne Bros.	$2.65
Hongkong Tin Ltd.	7/6d
Petaling Tin Ltd.	$3.92†
Batu Lintang Rubber Co. Ltd.	$1.44
Kempas Ltd.	$1.47
Lunas Rubber Estates Ltd.	$1.90
New Serandah Rubber Co. Ltd.	$1.31

*ex div †xd—China Mail Special.

London Stock Market

London, May 3.

Stocks moved irregularly on the London stock exchange today in cautious trading.

Leading industrials were up or down a few pence on average. Ford Motors, a recent upside feature, eased 10½d but Rolls Royce and Dunlop Rubber firmed.

Oil shares drifted lower with the exceptions of Royal Dutch which added £⅛.

Selective buying lifted gold stocks a few shillings. Coppers were about unchanged.

Traders moved cautiously in view of the spreading coal strike.

British Government bonds inched higher.—United Press.

London Foreign Exchange

	London, May 3.
New York	2.79-15/16-2.80
Montreal	2.76½-2.76-15/16
Amsterdam	10.64¾-10.64⅞
Copenhagen	19.40¾-19.41
Lisbon	80.25-80.50
Oslo	20.01⅛-20.01⅜
Paris	980¾-980½
Stockholm	14.54⅞-14.55⅛
West Marks	11.76¾-11.76⅞
Zurich	12.27½-12.27¾

Others were unchanged.—United Press.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

New York, May 3.

Prices of cotton futures closed today in cents per lb. as follows:

Lead	May	14.25b
	June	14.27b
Tin	May	90.75b
	June	90.60b
Zinc	May	10.05b
	June	10.99b
Copper	May	35.75b
	June	35.25b

—United Press.

LONDON METAL PRICES

London, May 3.

The lead market was easier while the rest of metals were steady today. Prices in sterling per long ton closed as follows:

	Buyers	Sellers
Tin spot	702½	710½
3-month	706½	712½
Copper spot	300	301
3-month	290½	291
Lead 1st half May	102¾	103
1st half Aug.	102¾	103
Zinc 1st half May	88½	88¾
1st half Aug.	87½	87¾

—United Press.

Exchange Rates

Business was done in the local unofficial exchange market this morning at the following rates:

U.S. dollar (per $1)	5.33
Sterling notes (per £1)	15.80
Indonesian rupiah (per 100)	12.50
Siam ticals (per 100)	27.10
Singapore (Straits)	1.81
Indo-China piastres (per 100)	8.62

HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Hongkong Stock Exchange this morning amounted to $1,398,577.50. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions:

SHARES	BUYERS	SELLERS	SALES	
BANKS				
HK Bank	1540	1550	105	@ 1545
East Asia	212			
INSURANCES				
Union		1035		
Lombard	49½		2120	@ 50
SHIPPING				
Asia Nav	78c.			
DOCKS, ETC.				
K Wharf	68			
Dock		24		
Provident (O)	11.90	12		
Wheelock	7.20	7.35		
LAND, ETC.				
HK Hotel	17.50			
HK Land	67½	68	338	@ 67
			1290	@ 67½
			3500	@ 68
Humphreys X.RTS	16.20			
RTS	5.10			
UTILITIES				
Tram	21.40	21.80	600	@ 21½
Star Ferry		133	100	@ 135
			100	@ 134
			500	@ 134
			100	@ 133
Y'matti Ferry	106	108	9	@ 106
			200	@ 107
			200	@ 106
C. Light (O) XD	18.30	18½	2300	@ 18.40
C. Light (N) XD	14.30	14½	4900	@ 14.40
Electric	38¼	38½	300	@ 38½
			500	@ 38¼
			100	@ 38½
			1000	@ 38¼
			600	@ 38½
Macao Elec. XD	10.80		580	@ 11
Telephone	32	32¼	3400	@ 32¼
INDUSTRIALS				
Cement	29.20	29.40	1000	@ 29.30
			100	@ 29.40
			6850	@ 29.30
Rope XD	15½			
STORES, ETC.				
Dairy XD	20	20.20	125	@ 20.30
			2000	@ 20.20
			500	@ 20.20
			200	@ 20.30
Watson		13.40		
L. Crawford	25.70			
COTTONS				
Textile Corp	5.70			
Nanyang		8.80		
MISCELLANEOUS				
Entertainment	15.90		100	@ 16.10
Yangtsze	6.25	6.30		
Allied	4.90			

World Rubber Markets

Singapore, May 3.

The rubber market ruled quietly steady with business on moderate scale. The market steadied further towards the close on overseas enquiries. Futures:

No. 1 rubber per lb.	
May	89¾-89⅞
June	89-89¼
July	unquoted
No. 2 rubber per lb. May	87¼-87½
No. 3 rubber per lb. May	86¼-86½
No. 4 rubber per lb. May	84-84¾
Spot rubber unbaled	90-90¼
Blanket crepe	79½-80½
No. 1 pale crepe	94-95

NEW YORK

Futures closed 13 to 30 points higher with sales of 103 contracts.

The largest part of the trade in futures was represented in exchanges of May for the July and Sept. deliveries.

Commission houses were credited with selling May against purchases of later months with dealers and other trade interests doing the reverse.

The spot market remained dull with spot quoted nominally at 31¼ cents a pound. Futures:

May	31.08
July	31.08
Sept.	30.70
Dec.	30.25
Mar.	30.00
May	29.70

LONDON

The market was quiet but steady. No. 1 Rss spot were quoted at 26¼ pence per lb. Prices:

No. 1 spot Rss	26¼-26⅜
Settlement house term:	
June	26-26¼
July/September	26-26¼
October/December	25⅝-25¾
January/March	25⅝-25¾
General markets, c.f. basis, ports:	
May	26¼-26½
June	26¼-26½
July	26½-26½
Estate crepe thick May	27¾
thin	27¼

AMSTERDAM

The rubber market was steady. Prices closed today in guilders per kilogram, CIF June as follows:

No. 1 rubber	2.60 buyers
No. 2 rubber	2.59 buyers
No. 3 rubber	2.56 buyers
No. 1 crepe	2.75 buyers

—United Press.

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"REBEVERETT"	Arr. June 1	Sails	June 2
"NOREVERETT"	—,— June 23	—,—	June 24
"BRADEVERETT"	—,— July 5	—,—	July 6
"LENEVERETT"	—,— July 20	—,—	July 21

Loading for Kobe, Osaka, Nagoya, Yokohama.

"REBEVERETT"	In Port	Sails	May 5
"NOREVERETT"	Arr. May 27	—,—	May 28
"BRADEVERETT"	—,— June 8	—,—	June 9
"LENEVERETT"	—,— June 23	—,—	June 24

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"STAR ALCYONE"	—,— June 14	—,—	June 15
"LAO"	—,— July 5	—,—	July 6
"STAR BETELGEUSE"	—,— July 24	—,—	July 25
"STAR ARCTURUS"	—,— Aug. 14	—,—	Aug. 15

Loading for Kobe, Osaka, Nagoya, Yokohama.

"STAR ALCYONE"	Arr. May 15	Sails	May 15
"LAO"	—,— June 4	—,—	June 5
"STAR BETELGEUSE"	—,— June 24	—,—	June 25
"STAR ARCTURUS"	—,— July 18	—,—	July 19
"THAI"	—,— July 30	—,—	July 31

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SHEAFFER'S Skrip

Nebulous China-Japan Trade Agreement

Tokyo, May 4.

Communist China and Japanese businessmen sign today a £60,000,000 sterling agreement which made little progress in increasing the thin flow of trade between the two countries.

The 13-article "agreement" will be in force for one year with provisions for extension or revision on the application of either side.

TWO PROVISION'S

The trade plan provided for the exchange of £30,000,000 sterling worth of goods each way during the next 12 months, payment to be in cash.

It provided that 35 per cent of Japan's exports to China would consist of "Class A" products—chiefly embargoed strategic goods such as railway equipment, heavy machinery, steel plates, pipes and ships.

The agreement was scheduled to be signed at 9 a.m. (HKT); but it was delayed. The ceremony was expected to take about two hours with 14 men from each side signing the papers.

In affixing signatures, therefore, both sides were fully conscious that the terms could be carried out only if both pledged their efforts to see that obstacles—chiefly caused by the free world embargo and Japan's non-recognition of Peking—are removed as soon as possible.

But the Japanese government had firmly indicated that it would not respect any provisions violating the free world embargo.

In attached papers, the Japanese group assured the Peking delegation that Prime Minister Hatoyama had pledged his "support and co-operation" in the implementation of the treaty. But the Japanese government refused to give a written guarantee backing the agreement.—United Press.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T.

6 p.m., Time Signal and Programme Summary; 6.03, Lucky Dip—Variety Requests presented by Jean (Studio); 7, Rt. Hon. A. T. Lennox-Boyd M.P.—A Personal Portrait by Barney Keelan (BBCTS); 7.15, Fleet Fingers. Geoffrey Thornley at the Piano (Concert Hall); 7.30, A Life of Bliss. Written by Godfrey Harrison; Produced by Leslie Bridgmont (Part 5) (BBCTS); 7.59, Weather Report; 8, Time Signal and The News (London Relay); 8.09, Commentary (London Relay) or Special Announcements; 8.15, Composer of the Week—Mozart; 8.45, Gypsy Nights; 9, Time Signal. Piano Recital by Mimi Chow (Recorded in Concert Hall); 9.30, Wednesday Theatre. "Triple Crown" A Radio Play by Alan Kennington. Produced by John Wallace for the Hongkong Stage Club. Cast: Gil Ranger, Donald Brooks; Steve Orton, Charles Friend; Joyce Ranger, Cynthia Nixon; Jenny Ranger, Daphne Harriot; Andrews, Charles Friend; Mr Vincent, Rei Oblitas; Lord Mendip, Ray Simpson; The Traveller, Rei Oblitas; Saunders, Timothy Birch; Stern, Charles Friend; Three Theatrical Agents—Donald Brooks, Timothy Birch and Charles Friend; George, Rei Oblitas; Two Commentators, John Wallace; 10.30, Music of the Twentieth Century, Symphony No. 2 Op. 19 (Barber); 10.59, Weather Report; 11, Time Signal, Radio News Reel (London Relay); 11.15, Goodnight Music, God Save The Queen; 11.30, Close Down.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith

"Only nine more pay days and he'll have the ring paid for—then we can start on a house!"

State Visit To Amsterdam

King Gustav Adolf and Queen Louise of Sweden recently visited Amsterdam on a three-day State visit. Picture shows: King Gustav accompanied by Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, inspecting Guards in front of the Royal Palace in Amsterdam. — London Express.

Songgram & Foster Dulles Have A Chat

Washington, May 3.

Thai Prime Minister Field Marshal Luang Pibul Songgram called on Secretary of State John Foster Dulles today and stayed for a twenty-minute conversation.

They were reported to have talked in generalities about matters of common interest, including the efforts being made by both governments to strengthen economic and military defences in Asia.

"These are things on which we generally see eye to eye," an American official said. There are no specific issues to be thrashed out between Thailand and the United States and no concrete problems came up at the Dulles-Pibul meeting, the informant said.

The Prime Minister presented Dulles with a piece of Thai silverware, which was much admired.

Earlier, Pibul Songgram and President Herman B. Wells of Indiana University signed a contract under which the University will undertake to strengthen Thailand's public administration methods.

The Foreign Operations Administration will pay dollar costs of the contract estimated at $880,000.

Under the contract, Indiana University will send a staff of eight experts to work at Thammasat University to help establish courses in public administration. In addition, about 100 Thais will be brought to Indiana each year for training.—United Press.

Germany's Military Forces

ORGANISATIONAL TASK

Bonn, May 4.

Plans to raise West German land, sea and air forces swing into operation tomorrow — the day the Federal Republic becomes a sovereign independent state.

One of the first tasks of the Federal Defence Office here will be to set up a "personnel committee" to choose some 40 generals to command the 500,000 men under arms.

These commanders must be free of any Nazi taint and acceptable to West German political parties.

The office must also prepare defence bills for presentation to Parliament. Among the first will be one regulating the status of volunteers forming the nucleus of the armed forces.

150,000 VOLUNTEERS

Some 150,000 volunteers have come forward for membership of this cadre force of officers and non-commissioned officers who will train young Germans conscripted under a bill to be presented later.

More than half the volunteers are former soldiers. Many of them will be unsuitable either politically or medically. Those accepted will be given four months to decide whether they want to remain in uniform.

The Defence Office has also to create the machinery for recruiting, housing, clothing and feeding the German Forces who will take their place in Western defence alongside the forces of Britain and five other West European nations.

West Germany will have an army of about 400,000 men and 12 divisions. There will be six infantry, four armoured and two motorised divisions plus artillery and engineer units. The army is also expected to have three airborne brigades and one mountain brigade.

THE AIR FORCE

The air force of 80,000 will have 20 squadrons with a total of 1,350 planes—transport aircraft, jet fighters and fighter bombers. There will be no heavy bombers. The navy, with 20,000 men, will have 180 vessels, including submarines up to 350 tons.

About 400 barracks will be built to house the new forces. Details of future German uniforms have not been disclosed but they are expected to incorporate some features in those worn by British and American forces.—Reuter.

British Car Industry In Danger

London, May 3.

Rising costs of production here are a serious threat to the prosperous British car industry, Mr A. B. Waring, President, told the Society of Motor Manufacturers here.

Imported materials were costing more than last year when a record of 1,170,000 cars, commercial vehicles and agricultural tractors were made for home and overseas buyers, he said. Wage increases were expected to send up the price of steel, coal and inland transport while freight charges at sea were rising throughout the world.

In addition "extortionate taxes" not relieved by the new national budget continued to be imposed on both commercial and private driving.

The new budget was "a great disappointment to the whole industry and to all vehicle users who in the current year will pay in the various forms of motor taxation more than £400 million sterling.

"Increased production and improved manufacturing techniques can offset some of these adverse influences which constitute a great threat to the future position of the industry," Mr Waring said.—China Mail Special.

Former HK Resident Dies

News has been received by the Hongkong office of the Canadian Pacific Steamships, Ltd., of the death in London on Monday of Mr K. M. Fetterly, Foreign Freight Traffic Manager, Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

He was on a business trip to England when his death occurred, and the body is being flown to Montreal for burial.

Mr Fetterly was well known in the Orient, having served with the Canadian Pacific in Hongkong and Shanghai for 16 years. He was in Hongkong from 1919 to 1924, and then went to Shanghai until 1937, when he was transferred to Vancouver as Foreign Freight Agent.

Mr Fetterly leaves a widow, son and daughter. He was married in Hongkong, and his son and daughter were born here.

THREW AWAY EVIDENCE

Evidence to substantiate a charge of smoking heroin was virtually scattered to the four winds by a tricky hawker, Mr T. Creedon was informed by the Police at Kowloon this morning.

Lee Liu, 32, however was not quite as lucky in disposing of four heroin pipes, and after pleading guilty to the charge of possession, was sentenced to one month. For breach of bond, defendant was additionally fined $500 or three months.

Lee was arrested yesterday on the stair-landing of 440, Castle Peak Road. On catching sight of the Police, he threw away the heroin which he was smoking at the time and it "dispersed in the winds."

Lighters Damage Claim: Question Of Precautions

In his cross-examination of Mr James Moodie, Deputy Manager of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. Ltd, at this morning's hearing of the claim against Wang Kee and Co., Mr John McNeill QC suggested that Mr Moodie did not take sufficient precautions during the typhoon of September 2, 1953 to safeguard his company's lighters.

Mr Moodie maintained that he took all the precautions necessary.

The Godown Company is claiming damages amounting to $70,533.15 against Wang Kee, merchants and stevedores, before Mr Justice J. R. Gregg at the Supreme Court. The plaintiffs allege that four of their lighters were sunk and three others damaged on the early morning of September 2 in a collision with lighters of the defendants. They allege negligence on the part of the defendants.

The Hon. Leo d'Almada, QC, and Mr T. A. Shurlock, instructed by Mr R. A. Wadeson, of Messrs Deacons, are appearing for plaintiffs, while defendants are represented by Mr John McNeil, QC, Mr Leslie Wright and Mr Victor Gittins, instructed by Mr Y. K. Kan, of Messrs Lo and Lo.

UNUSUAL DIRECTION

Mr Moodie said that when he heard from Mr Taylor (Wharf Superintendent) that the No. 5 Typhoon Signal was hoisted, he appreciated that the gale was expected from the northwest quadrant. He agreed that it was unusual for a typhoon to arrive from that direction and that No. 7 (northeast) and No. 8 (southeast) were the more usual signals hoisted.

Mr McNeill: Knowing the gale was from the northwest quadrant that would suggest to your mind that anything lying between those wharves was likely to be exposed to gale winds?

Witness: To a certain extent, yes.

Much more exposed, I suggest, than to a gale from the northeast quadrant? — They would.

Had the No. 1 Typhoon Signal been put up at some time on the afternoon of September 1 what action would you have taken?—Similar action to what I had already taken.

Would you not have started to move the lighters away?—Not with the No. 1 Signal.

Mr Moodie explained that the No. 1 Signal did not indicate any direction but with this signal was usually given the position of the typhoon, the direction in which it was travelling and its speed.

Mr McNeill put it to him that it was unusual for the Nos. 5-8 signals to be put up without the prior No. 1 warning.

Mr Moodie said it was not unusual, but it was more usually hoisted after the No. 1 Signal although it could also be used with the Strong Winds Signal without the No. 1 Signal coming into the picture at all.

OBSERVATORY ADVICE

He agreed with the Observatory pamphlet on their Storm Warning Service that on the hoisting of Nos. 5-8 all safety precautions should be put in hand at once and that it would be extremely difficult to wait until No. 9 or No. 10.

He said that at the relevant time Mr Taylor was the only Wharf Superintendent on the wharves and he had three assistant superintendents. If the presence of other superintendents was necessary they would have been called, he added.

Mr McNeill: When this unusual No. 5 Signal was hoisted did you not think it necessary to call out any other superintendents?

Witness: Not with the organisation we have.

It would not have been unreasonable to call assistance?—Unnecessary.

I asked you previously when you arrived at the Citos bay shortly after 6 a.m. and saw the Karley drifting why you did not move Lighters 41 and 62 further west, and one of your reasons was a story about trouble in the next bay. You said you then left for the Nellore bay. Did you leave behind any responsible person to watch the Karley?—There were no definite instructions given.

Why not? With your organisation you could have instructed someone to keep an eye on the Karley to see she did not do any damage.—At the time I arrived, as far as I could see, there was no imminent danger from the Karley. The danger, and serious danger, was in the Nellore bay.

WELL IN THEORY

I put it to you that it would have been the most elementary precaution for you to take to leave someone behind to watch these drifting lighters in the Citos bay before you left for the Nellore bay.—It is all very well in theory, but in practice it is very different altogether.

I put it to you that it is an elementary precaution in practice.—I don't agree with you.

In answer to the Court Mr Moodie said that the No. 1 Typhoon Signal did not bring all work to a standstill in the harbour. It was the usual practice for work to carry on until the hoisting of Nos. 5, 6, 7, or 8.

Mr McNeill: At the hoisting of Nos. 5-8 all safety precautions must be put in hand at once. Anything could happen.

Witness: I don't agree with your last remark. It does not mean that the gale is coming down upon you at any moment.

HOURS OF TIME

It would be extremely dangerous to wait for the display of No. 9 or No. 10 before putting in precautions.—You can have some considerable time, hours, before you have the No. 9 or No. 10 after Nos. 5, 6, 7 or 8.

You may have some hours or you may have none at all, I put it to you.—I don't agree. I agree it would be extremely dangerous to wait until a further signal is put up.

Mr Moodie agreed that he saw Mr Taylor on his arrival at the wharves. Mr Taylor reported what was happening and that he had rung up the Marine Police and told him the reason for this.

Witness, however, said that as far as he knew Mr Taylor merely said that he rang up for the Marine Police to pick up the drifting lighters in both the Citos bay and the Nellore bay and did not give as his reason the two Wang Kee lighters in the Citos bay constituted a danger to the Godown Lighters 41 and 62. He could not remember Mr Taylor saying that.

The case is proceeding.

Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for unregistered correspondence posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest posting times elsewhere which, in general, are earlier than the G.P.O. times can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office.

The latest posting times for registered articles are generally one hour earlier than the times shown below. Particulars regarding parcel mails can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

By Air

Japan, 6 p.m.
Formosa, 6 p.m.
Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, 6 p.m.
Indo-China, 6 p.m.

By Surface

Malaya, Ceylon, India, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain & Europe, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 5

By Air

Thailand, Burma, India, Sandakan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 10 a.m.
Philippines, 2 p.m.
Guam, Hawaii, USA, 2 p.m.
Burma, India, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 6 p.m.

By Surface

Macao, 9 a.m.
China, People's Republic, 9.30 a.m.
Burma, Noon.
Japan, 1 p.m.
Italy, France, 1 p.m.
N. Borneo, 2 p.m.
Macao, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 6

By Air

Thailand, 8 a.m.
Formosa, Japan, Korea, 10 a.m.
Indo-China, 11 a.m.
Philippines, 2 p.m.
Burma, India, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain and Europe, 5 p.m.
Japan, U.S.A., Canada, 6 p.m.
Formosa, 6 p.m.

By Surface

Macao, 9 a.m.
China, People's Republic, 9.30 a.m.

In future weeks this column will bring you as much information as I can obtain for you about the songs, the stars, the men behind the scenes, the orchestras, the song writers, the latest improvements and trends which make up what is surely the most complicated and exciting business outside of the hurly-burly of Hollywood—the record industry.

Recorded music will be the theme for this column but only the 'Popular' stars will shine. As the Americans have said . . . 'This is strictly for the crew cuts' . . . the only mention of Bach, Beethoven or Brahms will be when I find another example of a classic melody being milked for a 'pop' hit . . . and by all accounts that shouldn't be long; it happens all the time.

The column will also include reviews of the latest popular records to arrive in the colony, news of the comings and goings, the rise and fall of the stars in this particular sphere. There will also be news for you of coming films in which the recording 'names' will appear. In short, anything which might interest those who are interested in 'Pop' records will be here for them to read.

Are You In Your Music?

Now to break a rule straight away. Mention of Larry Adler must mean mention of classical music because he is literally the only man to have justified the playing of the masters on the mouth-organ. He has a thing to say about music which might interest some of the local jazzmen. When I was talking to him a day or two ago he said that he didn't like the piano-accordion as an instrument and that he feels badly about electrical amplification of such instruments as guitars and harmonicas.

His dislike of the accordion and the amplification stems from the same thing, his antipathy towards any music which is produced by an instrument which prevents the player 'putting himself into his music.'

Now think a bit. With almost every wind instrument it's the player's wind that makes the noise. With the string instruments it's the musician's direct touch that counts. An accordion however operates on air shoved in and out of a pleated bag . . . and with electric amplification there is so much distortion of the original sound made by finger of plectrum that any one good player sounds like any other good player. This is, of course, not so important in 'pop' music because it is the sound that counts . . . and if Les Paul worried about 'putting himself into' the multi-recordings he has made with his wife, Mary Ford, he wouldn't have turned out so many spectacularly successful discs. Listen to any of the earlier Les Paul recordings, made with various jazz groups all over the States, and you will hear him at his best, playing one guitar with no electric amplifier.

So if any of you are thinking of playing any instrument, think twice about it if you can't 'put yourself into it' completely. Personally, I once played drums and have twice achieved the ultimate ambition . . . once on a dark night in London when I slipped from the back of the bus, once when, in India, the bass drum and I went into a dark, damp ditch. Both times I was really and truly 'in' . . . and I had to pay for new drum-skins.

. . . And The Next Number

To write a popular song is hard enough but it would seem that the most intelligence is needed to write the title. Some recent examples . . . "Gilly, Gilly, Ossenfeffer, Katzenellen Bogen by the Sea", "Don't Let the Kiddygeddin", "Are My Ears on Straight" and "Climb Up the Wall". These and such others as "Sh-Boom" and "Oop-Shoop" make me wonder where they get the new recruits for Tin Pan Alley. Still, the 'long haired' schools have had some strange titles to contend with . . . "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun", "Love for Three Oranges" and so on. It all goes to show that it's the music that counts.

How They're Doing

. . . DORIS DAY is on the point of making a new film somewhere in North Africa.

. . . ROSEMARY CLOONEY is at home with the new baby and watching with interest the sales figures of her newest disc. . . . "Where Will the Dimple Be". She should know by now!

. . . PATTI PAGE is said to be making a film in England sometime. I do hear that she prefers to keep her figure as it is . . . pleasantly plump . . . and Hollywood want her to take off a few pounds. In England the girls are alright if they come the same size as Anne Shelton!

The Face Behind The Voice

DORIS DAY

Started as a dancer, tried singing and liked it. When the public liked it too Doris developed her own stlye whilst on a long term contract with a Cincinnati radio station. Her first 'Big Band' job was with Les Brown, then onwards and upwards, with her first hit record a little later. Now makes films in which she sings and acts and, as before, dances. Latest release to arrive . . . 'Hold Me in Your Arms."

Record Review

Nat 'King' Cole . . . A new Capitol 45 EP offers four Hit Parade tunes by the man with the chocolate voice. The numbers were made popular by other singers but Nat does his usual good job. Billy May and his orchestra back in "Papa Loves Mambo" and "Teach Me To-Night", the Nelson Riddle ork are behind him in "If I Give my Heart to You" and "Hold my Hand" Cap. EAP 1-9120.

Les Paul and Mary Ford . . . Multiple recordings of "Mister Sandman", "That's What I Like", "I Need You Now" and "The Things I Didn't Do". The usual Paul family standard and in my opinion that "Mister Sandman" version much better than the Chordettes' which made the song popular. Cap. EAP 1-9121.

Two Lectures At University

Professor D. G. E. Hall, who occupies the Chair of Southeast Asian History at London University, will give two lectures on "China and Southeast Asia, Yesterday and Today" at Hongkong University in the Chemistry lecture theatre on May 24 and May 26 at 5.30 p.m. on both evenings.

Members of the University and the Public are invited.

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